WARREN PRESENTS:

WANTED

$1.75
$1.95 CAN

MAY 1979

The ROOK

ALSO KNOWN AS THE
MASTER OF TIME

DEAD OR ALIVE!

REWARD!

THE MAKING OF A COMIC BOOK HERO!

It's not as easy as it looks!

In early 1976, westerns, long the staple of paperbacks, television and motion pictures, were being sadly neglected by the media.

After only a few short seasons of oblivion, the **Ponderosa** had been completely forgotten. **Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy** and **The Lone Ranger** were nothing more than distant memories. And God forbid the modern generation speak the revered name of **Shane**. Even **Matt Dillon**, longest-lived of all the old west legends, was carried out boots first after that final, disasterous showdown with the sharp-shooting Nielsens.

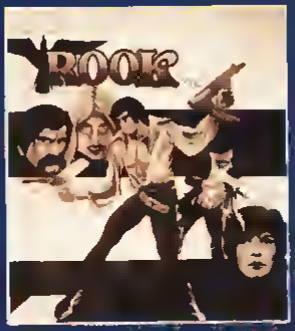
The fickle American public seemed to have completely forgotten their heritage, and were turning to the **Columbos, MacMillans** and **Rockfords** for more modern, fast-paced thrills. Yet, even the seemingly endless parade of private eyes and Police Stories weren't enough to hold America's limited attention span. And while diversions like **Rocky, Charlie's Angels** and **Archie Bunker** were nice, they too were inadequate to satisfy the nation's insatiable mental hunger.

America seemed to be searching for some intangible something. It was one of those rare times when the country was in between fads, impatiently awaiting the next **Elvis**, hoola hoop or **Jaws**.

Like any media mogul worth his weight in newsprint, Jim Warren, famous magazine magnate, wanted desperately to be an integral part of that coming craze, whatever it was to be. And, being an intelligent, perceptive individual, he was unwavering in his conviction that he alone knew the secret. The next big craze would be... **Westerns!**

Armed with this wondrous and inspired foreknowledge, Warren set out to capitalize as no one had ever before capitalized on a trend.

He summoned two of the most talented and creative minds at his disposal: Howard Perets of Package Play Development in California, and Bill DuBay, founder of Connecticut's fledgling Cartoon Factory.



The characters were established. The first script completed when Dube came up with this almost finished version of The Rook. The costume was revised for the final time before three months completion schedule.

Perets and Package Play Development had an impressive track record in the creation and design of children's playthings for larger manufacturers. While Dube's Cartoon Factory was pleasing clients like **CRACKED, SICK, CRAZY** and **PLAYBOY** with assorted cartoon art and scripting. After five hectic years of magazine deadlines, Dube had earlier that year, stepped down from his position as editor of the **Warren** magazines.

At the first meeting of the talented trio, Warren presented an outline of his strategy. "It'll be your job, Dube, to come up with the next **Lone Ranger**! We need a hero that will rekindle interest in the old west and set the public's imagination afire."

"No easy task," was Dube's unenthusiastic response, whispered in his usual understated monotone.

Perets, however, was more easily inspired. "It's just what the toy companies need! Mattel can dig out their old cowboy molds, shelved since the fifties. And we'll design a whole new line of horses for **Mego**!"

At least two-thirds of the triumvirate concluded the meeting with the sincere conviction that they were about to set the world on fire. Dube, however, to whom the monumental task fell of creating this trend-setting comic sensation, skulked back to his Connecticut studio cursing Jim Warren for dragging him away from important assignments to pursue elusive wisps of smoke.

For the next week, Dube immersed himself in work for his cartoon-publishing clientele, and forgot all about capturing the public's capricious eye. Until, that is, Budd Lewis, his partner in the Factory, casually queried about what he was up to for Warren.

"I've got to invent the next **Davy Crockett**," responded Dube without looking up from his cluttered drawing board. "J.W. wants to market coonskin caps!"

"Got any ideas?" queried Lewis.

"I know what I don't want to do. A western," sighed Dube. "But Jim's convinced that the old west is going to take off like a jet-powered frisbee."

"What do you think the next big trend is going to be?"

"Who can say? These things sneak upon you."

"But what do you think?" pressed Lewis.

"I think the answer is to the future, not the past. People are going to be looking ahead, towards the promise of tomorrow."

"Then come up with a character set in the future."

"Can't!" complained Dube. "Warren was explicit: Produce a cowboy. If only there were some way I could step out of that limited old west setting..!"

Continued on inside back cover...

Editor-In-Chief
& Publisher
JAMES WARREN

Editor
W.B. DuBAY

Assistant Editors
CHRIS ADAMES
LOUISE JONES

Art Production Director
W.R. MOHALLEY

Art Director
KIM McQUAITE

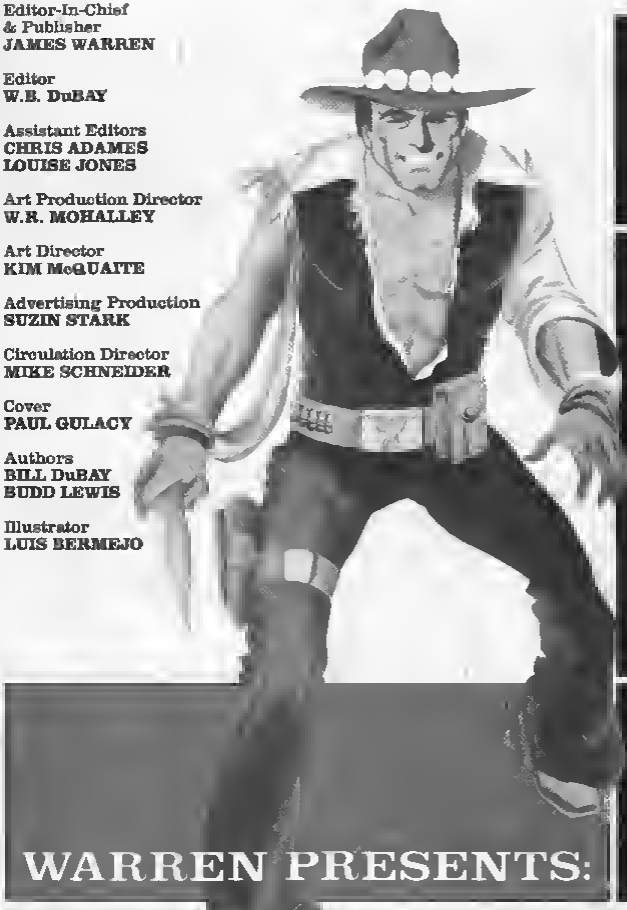
Advertising Production
SUZIN STARK

Circulation Director
MIKE SCHNEIDER

Cover
PAUL GULACY

Authors
BILL DuBAY
BUDD LEWIS

Illustrator
LUIS BERMEJO



WARREN PRESENTS:

The ROOK™

contents

THE MAN WHOM TIME FORGOT
The Rook castles back on his third time trip to save his forebear Parrish Dane from certain death when Santa Anna assaults the Alamo! If the Rook fails he may vanish from all time! 4

DAY BEFORE TOMORROW
Gat Hawkin, an Alamo deserter, had become a secret passenger aboard Rook's time travel machine. Now the killer wanted it and murder was a small price for the wondrous device. 24

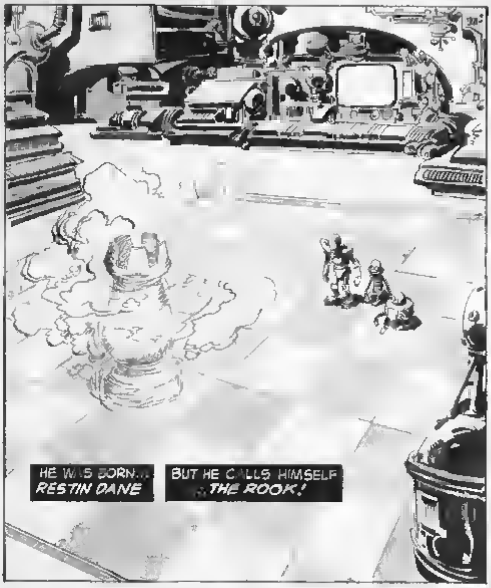
YESTERDAY, THE FINAL DAY
Wounded by the gunfighter, Alamo deserter, sheriff Gat Hawkin, the Rook's life ebbs away. With blazing 45's and a 30 gallon hat comes a savior. So what if he's made of tin! 44

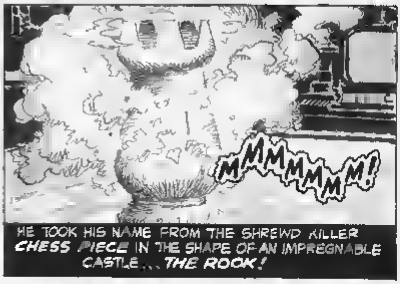
THE LAND OF NOWHEN
The Rook's Castle could deliver him to any time segment in existence but the Rook had to leave before the segment ran out or suffer the consequences and be trapped in time! 66

WARREN PRESENTS THE ROOK PUBLISHED BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO EDITORIAL BUSINESS & SUBSCRIPTION OFFICES AT 145 E 32ND STREET NEW YORK N Y 10016 TELEPHONE (212) 683-6050
VOL 1 NO 2 MARCH

ENTIRE CONTENTS COPYRIGHTED © BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO ALL RIGHTS RESERVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD UNDER THE UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION AND THE PAN AMERICAN COPYRIGHT CONVENTION NOTHING MAY BE REPRINTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE PUBLISHER

WARREN PRESENTS IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY AT THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF $8.00 PER YEAR BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO., A DIVISION OF WARREN COMMUNICATION CORPORATION. APPLICATION TO MAIL AT SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE RATES IS PENDING AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES





YET, HE MOVED THROUGH THE SHADOWS OF TIME... QUICKLY. QUIETLY. AS MYSTERIOUS AS THE GREGARIOUS BLACK BIRD OF PREY...KNOWN ALSO AS... THE ROOK!

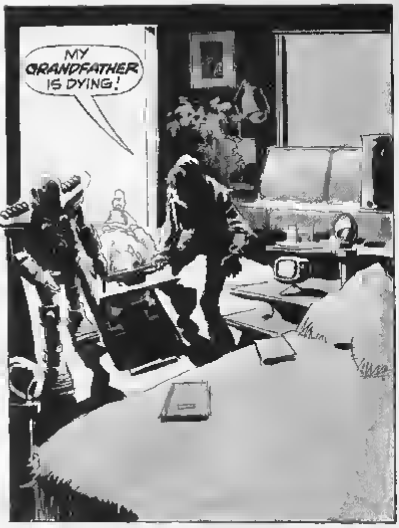
The ROOK™

HIS TIME...WAS ANY TIME! EVERY TIME!

THE PLACE HE CALLED HOME... THE OLD WEST!

 STORY BILL DuBAY/ART LUIS BERMEJO

MASTER DANE... YOU'RE INJURED!
NEVER MIND ME, MANNERS. GET POC NEEDLES OUT HERE, FAST!


MY GRANDFATHER IS DYING!

Y-YOUR GRANDFATHER SIR?
GREAT, GREAT GRAND-FATHER, ACTUALLY! I FOUND HIM IN 1874!

HE...HE WAS AN OUTLAW BACK THEN ..A GUN-FIGHTER!
DAMN GOOD ONE, TOO!

YOU MAKE SURE THE POC PULLS HIM THROUGH!
S-SIR! YOU - YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK..?

BACK IN TIME? I HAVE TO, MANNERS...! I'VE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND!
HERE! TAKE THE TIME TAPES!
IF I DON'T COME BACK, YOU'LL AT LEAST KNOW WHY, ONCE YOU'VE TRAN-SCRIBED THESE!

THE MAN WHOM TIME FORGOT!

CLANG CLANG CLANG CLANG
BDAM! BLAM! BAM! BAM! BDANG! PTANG!
NOW IS THAT ANY WAY TO SAY GOOD MORNING?
L-LORD Y-YOU AIN'T DEAD?
GOSH... I... I'M SORRY I SHOT YOU, FELLA! YOU GAVE ME AN AWFUL START...COMIN' IN HERE WITH THAT UGLY SUIT ON!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME KIND OF INHUMAN MONSTER!

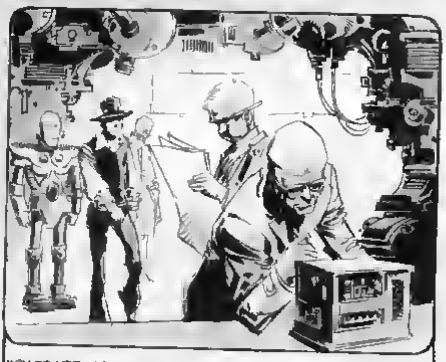
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR...! BEFORE YOU SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY VENTILLATED IT, I SAW NOTHING UGLY ABOUT MY ATTIRE!
FURTHER, I AM DEEPLY GRIEVED BY YOUR UNKIND COMMENTS! AN INHUMAN MONSTER? INDEED!
I, SIR, AM PERHAPS MORE HUMAN THAN YOU! AS AN A-SERIES COMPUROB, CREATED BY MASTER RESTIN DANE I WOULD NEVER SHOW MY GRATITUDE TO SOMEONE WHO HAD NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH, BY ACTING LIKE A COMMON BARBARIAN!
WHO IS THIS MASTER OF YOURS?
YOUR GREAT, GREAT GRANDSON, SIR! THE MAN WHO RESCUED YOU FROM YOUR OBVIOUSLY PERILOUS DILEMMA!
MY...MY WHAT?
IT IS A LONG STORY, SIR!
SLOW DOWN A MINUTE, PARD! YOU'RE A WHO WHO DID WHAT?
YOU MAY ADDRESS ME, SIR, AS MANNERS! I AM MASTER DANE'S GENTLEMAN. AND IT IS I, ASSISTED BY THE DEVOTED DR NEEDLES, WHO HAVE TENDED TO YOUR WOUNDS, PUNCTURES AND LEAKS THESE PAST TWO WEEKS WHILE AWAITING THE MASTER'S RETURN!
OBVIOUSLY, SIR YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED A COMPUROB!
HEY! HOW DO YOU FIT IN THERE, ANYWAY? YOU A MIDGET?
KANG! KANG! KANG!
AH, BUT FORGIVE ME. I'D FORGOTTEN! YOU ARE FROM A MUCH SIMPLER TIME! HOW COULD YOU KNOW THE MANY MARVELS OF 1977?
1977?
THE DATE, SIR! THIS IS FEBRUARY 16, 1977!
YOUR LAST MEMORY, I BELIEVE, WOULD BE OF THE YEAR 1874!

LISTEN, FREAK.. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL HERE BUT I'M NOT SWALLOWING ANY OF IT!
NOW I SUGGEST YOU SHOW ME THE WAY OUT OF THIS NUTHOUSE ...OR I'LL.. I'LL BLOW YOUR MIDGET BRAINS RIGHT OUT OF THAT TIN HELMET..
...UGHN!
KANG!
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, SIR THIS HELMET IS REALLY MY HEAD!
HERE! LIE DOWN! YOU'RE STILL WEAK FROM YOUR WOUNDS!
I REALIZE HOW DIFFICULT THIS MUST BE FOR YOU TO ACCEPT! THERE HAVE BEEN ASTOUNDING CHANGES SINCE THE WORLD OF YOUR DAY!
WE HAVE MACHINES THAT SOAR THROUGH THE SKIES! SHIPS THAT HAVE ROCKETED TO THE MOON AND MARS! WE'VE RADIO AND TELEVISION AND AUTOMOBILES AND ROCK MUSIC AND SUPER BOWLS AND FIFTY STATES!
WE'VE HAD TWO WORLD WARS, KOREA AND VIETNAM. THERE ARE TANKS. SUBMARINES. MISSILES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS...
WE'VE EVEN GOT HERSHEY BARS, DISNEYLAND AND BIG MACS THERE'S THE FONZ, THE BEATLES, AN ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT KING KONG!
THERE'S EVER SO MUCH FOR YOU TO DISCOVER SIR! MY CIRCUITS BATTER FROM THE SHEER EXCITEMENT OF IT ALL!
I KNEW IT! I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HELL!
OH NO, SIR - YOU'RE VERY MUCH ALIVE! I'M SURE MASTER DANE WOULD WANT YOU TO BEGIN LEARNING OF YOUR NEW WORLD IMMEDIATELY!
WE SHOULD BE JUST IN TIME FOR THE 6 O CLOCK NEWS!
IN TONIGHT'S NEWS, UGANDAN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN--!
LORD! LORD! IT'S WITCHCRAFT!
BDAM!
BLAM! BAM! BAM!
BLAM!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS SIR, I'VE OFTEN WANTED TO DO THAT TO BARBARA WALTERS MYSELF. HOWEVER... PLEASE TRY NOT TO TOY WITH THESE NOISY PLAYTHINGS WHILE IN THE HOUSE!
I THINK IT'S BEST I LET YOU REST NOW. YOU CAN MULL OVER ALL THAT I'VE SAID AND WHEN YOU'RE READY WE'LL TALK AGAIN!
MASTER DANE STILL HASN'T RETURNED YET, MR MANNERS!
IT HAS BEEN AN..AH EXPERIENCE MEETING YOU!
THIS IS ONLY HIS THIRD TRIP INTO THE PAST! H-HE'S STILL NEW...INEXPERIENCED AT IT...!
YOU...YOU DON'T THINK SOMETHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM!!! DO YOU, MR MANNERS?
WHAT IF HE'S ALREADY DEAD? WE WOULD NEVER EVEN KNOW!
M-MAYBE HE'S HURT SOMEWHERE ..BLEEDING.. DYING.!
OR...OR WORSE..! WHAT IF MASTER DANE IS TRAPPED SOMEWHERE? TRAPPED BETWEEN TIMES...IN A VOID THAT EXISTS IN NOWHERE?
WHAT WHAT CAN WE DO?
WE COULD RECALL THE TIME CASTLE ..AND PERHAPS TRAP MASTER DANE IN WHICHEVER PERIOD HE NOW EXISTS
...OR WE DO AS WE'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED..AND WAIT! MASTER DANE AS ALWAYS, WOULD NOT WANT US TO INTERFERE!

ROOK PART II: THE MAN WHOM TIME FORGOT

THEN SOMEBODY'S GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO! I WANT TO KNOW THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND WHY OF IT ALL.
AND I WANT TO KNOW NOW!
CLICK



"BY TRADE, HE IS A ***TECHNOPHYSICIST.*** HE EXPERIMENTS WITH THE SCIENCE OF ***PHYSICS, COMPUTERS,*** AND ADVANCED ***ROBOTRONICS!***"

"HIS WORK IN THESE FIELDS LED MASTER DANE TO DESIGN HIS MAGNIFICENT ***TIME TRAVELLING*** DEVICE!"

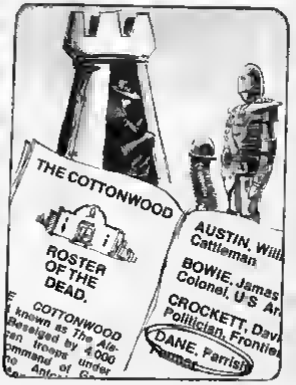
"THE MACHINE'S COMPONENTS WERE ASSEMBLED BY SEVERAL GROUPS OF TECHNICIANS FOLLOWING MASTER DANE'S SPECIFIC PLANS. NO GROUP KNEW EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS WORKING ON. AND I PRESUME, BECAUSE OF THE PREMIUM WAGES EACH WAS PAID, NO ONE CARED...OR ***DARED*** TO SPECULATE!

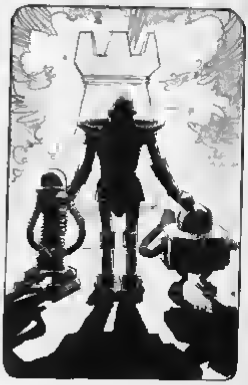
"I ASSISTED MASTER DANE IN ASSEMBLING THE ACTUAL TIMESPAN MACHINE. HE WORKED FEVERISHLY. ENTIRE ***DAYS*** WITHOUT FOOD OR SLEEP. THE MASTER WAS LIKE A MAN ***POSSESSED,*** CAUGHT IN THE GRIP OF A HORRIBLE ***OBSESSION!***"

"HIS ENTIRE LIFE, THE MASTER HAD WANTED A MACHINE SUCH AS THIS... A MACHINE THAT WOULD ALLOW HIM TO ***ESCAPE*** THE TIME IN WHICH HE HAD BEEN ***IMPRISONED!***"

"MASTER DANE SPENT A ***LIFETIME*** PLANNING, ***DREAMING*** OF THE FATES WHICH AWAITED HIM IN ***TIME!***"

"WHEN HIS MOMENT FINALLY CAME, HE WAS DRAWN...AS IF BY AN INESCAPABLE FORCE, TO THAT ONE POINT IN TIME WHOSE DREAMS HAD ***HAUNTED*** HIM SINCE HIS YOUTH!..!"





THEY...THEY'RE BLOWING THE MEGUELO, COLONEL! NO QUARTER! T-THEY'RE GONNA KILL US ALL!
THEY'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO FOR TWELVE DAYS, BOY...AN AIN'T SUCCEEDED YET!
GOTTA SAY ONE THING FOR THEM MESKIN DEVILS. THEY'S PERSISTANT!

COLONEL, A WAGON'S COMIN' THROUGH...!
A WAGON,? WHAT DAMNED FOOL BE DUMB ENOUGH TO RIDE INTO THE GATES OF HELL?
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, BUT HE'S GOT ME ROOTIN' FOR HIM...!
BOOM!
BLAM!
POP!
BAM!
BDAM!
KRAK!

OH SHIII!--! HE'S GONNA MAKE IT, BUT HE'S BRINGING SANTA ANNA'S ALL-BOY MARCHIN' BAND WITH IM!
OPEN THEM GATES!

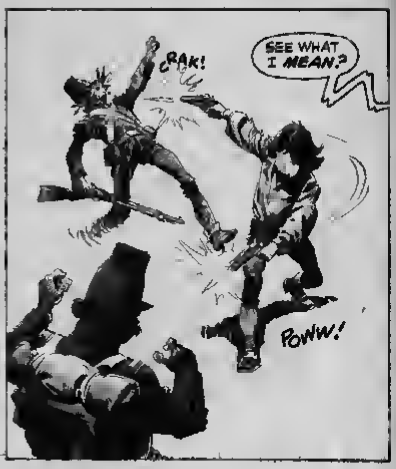
OUT OF MY WAY, YOU SUICIDAL IDJIT!!
BLAM!
POP!
YEEWAH!!

SAY HELLO TO THE DEVIL FER ME, AMIGOS!
BOOM!

SO THIS IS THE GARDEN SPOT A'TEXAS! TO THINK I RODE THIRTY MILES JUST T'SEE THIS!
DAMN FOOL! YOU BOUT GOT YOURSELF KILLED!

I HEARD YOU NEEDED SOME REINFORCEMENTS...
SO I GOT MY ARMY TOGETHER AND CAME ON DOWN!
BLAM!
POP!
CRACK!

ARMY? WHERE ARE THEY... IN THAT BATTERED UP WAR WAGON!
PAM!
HELL, NO MAN "THEY" IS RIGHT HERE!
MEET M'BOY, BISH...! BEST DANGED SHOT THIS SIDE'A THE MESKIN LINE!

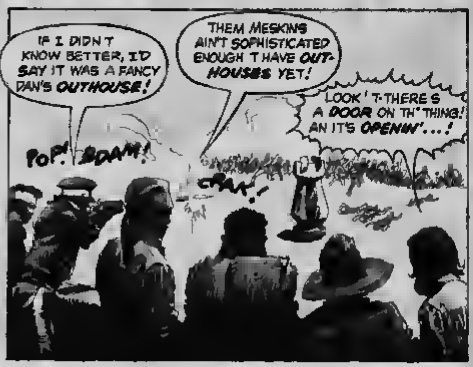

SEE WHAT I MEAN?
CRAK!
POWW!

MAH NAME'S PARRISH! PARRISH DANE AN' IT 'PEARS THAT I GOT HERE MONE TOO SOON!
DOW!
CRAK!

YESSIR, MISTER DANE, YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME..
..TO DIE!
WAK!
WOP!
WAKK!

COLONEL! COLONEL TRAVIS ...LOOK!
DOWN THERE!

LORDY LORD! WHAT IS THAT THING?
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?


IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY IT WAS A FANCY DAN'S OUTHOUSE!
THEM MESKINS AIN'T SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH T HAVE OUTHOUSES YET!
LOOK! T-THERE'S A DOOR ON TH' THING! AN IT'S OPENIN'...!
POP!
BDAM!
CRAK!

PTOW! TOW! BDAM! BLAM!
BDDZZZZZZT!
JEEZUS LORD! WHO IS THAT GUY?
WHOOEEE! LOOKIT THET SHOOTIN'! WE BEEN SAVED!
BRRRRRP!
CHAM!
P'CHOW!
CHOW!
CHAM!
CHOW!
CHAM!
WHO EVER HE IS - I'MON HIS SIDE!
KAM!
CHAM!
BOOM!
BLAM!
Z'NG!
OPEN THEM GATES! RE-INFORCEMENTS IS ARRIVED!
CHOW!
BLAM!
CHOWM!
WE GOT 'EM, FELLA! LET'S GIVE 'EM HELL!
DZZZZZZZZ
MISTER... I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, WHERS YOU CAME FROM, OR WHERE YOU GOT THEM FANCY GUNS .. BUT I WANT T' THANK GOD AND SAM HOUSTON F'R SENDIN' YA!
MY NAME'S CROCKETT... AND BEFORE YOU GOT HERE, I THOUGHT FOR SURE I'D WAKE UP TOMORROW SHAKIN' HANDS WITH TH' DEVIL!

DAVY CROCKETT!? WELL I'LL BE DAMNED! SIR—THIS IS MY DISTINCT PLEASURE!
AND COLONEL BILL TRAVIS...IS HE--?
RIGHT HERE, BOY! ;UGHH!; PLEASE T'MEET YA!
BDZZZZZZZT!
PLEASURE'S ALL MINE!
DZZZT!
AND...AND JIM BOWIE...IS HE--?
HE'S ALIVE...BUT IN BAD SHAPE, MISTER! WE'VE GOT HIM DOWN IN THE INFIRMARY!
AND...AND WHAT ABOUT PARRISH DANE?
HEY! HOW IN HELL'D YOU KNOW I'D BE HERE, FELLA?
THOK'T!
I DIDN'T KNOW MYSELF TILL THIS MORNIN'.
HEY! DO I KNOW YOU...?
NO.. BUT I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THE REASON I'M HERE!
I HAD A GRANDMOTHER TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOU ONCE. .HOW YOU WERE A HERO... DIED FIGHTING AT THE AL--!
DIED? YOU CRAZY, FELLA? I AIN'T DEAD!
ZZZT!
CHOW!
KOWW!
I... I KNOW...' AND NOW THAT I'M HERE, THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA STAY!
UH OH,' WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW.!

SANTA ANNA'S SENDING ALL FOUR THOUSAND OF 'EM!
LORD PRESERVE US!
RIGHT NOW, I GOTTA FIGHT MESKINS, BOY...
BAM!
KAK!
.. BUT WHEN I'M DONE, YOU'N ME GONNA HAVE A NICE LONG CHAT!
ANYTHING YOU SAY... GRAND-FATHER!
BAM!
CHAM!
KRAK!
ZZZZT!
LOOK OUT!
BKKK!
ZZZZZT!
MUCH OBLIGED, GENTLEMEN! NOW IF YOU'LL GET THIS UGLY CRITTER OFF'N ME, I'LL HELP YOU WIN THIS WAR!

I AIN'T NEVER SEEN GUNS FIRE MORE'N ONE SHOT, SON..
WAKT!
ZZZZZIT!
AEEEE!
BDAM!
BAM!
..BUT EVEN THEM'S NOT ENOUGH TO STOP THESE MESKINS!
BLAM!
THERE THERE'S JUST TOO DAMN MANY OF 'EM!
CRAK!
THEY'RE.. THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE!
WE..WE DON'T HAVE A PRAYER! UGHNN!
SLAKK!
COLONEL TRAVIS!
I...I'M GONE, BOY ..BUT..BUT DON'T LET THEM GET BOWIE...!
S-SAVE.. THE OLD..MAN...!
BAMO!
TAKE THIS AND GET DOWN THERE WITH COLONEL BOWIE, BOY ..! DO LIKE TRAVIS ASKED!
MUCH OBLIGED, SIR ..! SHE FEELS LIKE A DAMNED FINE WEAPON!
PTOW!
TOW!
TOW!

T-THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.. WE...WE CAN'T HOLD 'EM . UGHNN!
POW! BLAM!
CRAK!
WHAT!
EHAM!
AIEEE!
BZZZZZZT!
AGHH!
WE CAN, I TELL YOU...! WE MUST!! I CAME HERE TO SAVE YOU!
BZZZZT!
T-TO SAVE YOU.. ! SOB!!
B-BOWIE... THE BOY--! NOOOO! YOU WON'T HAVE THEM!
CHAM!
BAM!
BZZZZZZT!
CLIK
CLIK
CLAK
BAMB!
NOT THEM!!
NOT. .
TKAKK!
THEM...!
WHOOOT!

NOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
DAMN YOUR FILTHY HIDES... YOU STINKING, MURDERING SCUM!
OHHHH--!
WHA--?
BOY! YOU'RE ALIVE! YOU AT LEAST ARE ALIVE...!
GRAB HOLD, KID! WE'RE GOING TO KEEP YOU THAT WAY... AND GET YOU THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

I CAME BACK HERE TO SAVE SOMEBODY...!
SLIII!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IT SON...
SLITSH!

...WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT...!

HOLD ON BOY... YOU'RE GOING FOR THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE!

W-WHERE... WE... GOIN'...?

SAME TIME
...SAME PLACE, BOY

BUT ONE DAY LATER!
WHRRMMMMMMMMMM!

...AND SANTA ANNA'S HELLIONS ARE FIFTY MILES FROM HERE BY NOW!
H-HOW...?
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU'RE ALIVE..
THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE ALAMO!
A-AND EVERYBODY ELSE...?
TRAVIS BOWIE. CROCKETT. DANE. ALL OF 'EM!! THEY'RE DEAD, BOY!
THEY'RE THE LUCKY ONES YOU... ME... WE'VE GOT TO LIVE WITH THIS HORROR FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!
YOU FOUGHT LIKE HELL SON...! HERE! YOU WERE THE LAST MAN EVER TO FIGHT AT JIM BOWIE'S SIDE. I'M SURE HE'D BE PROUD IF YOU'D TAKE HIS KNIFE!
W-WHERE WILL YOU GO NOW?
BACK TO WHERE I CAME FROM..!
I..I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME...!
AND I DON'T KNOW YOURS!
AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH. IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM IMPORTANT ANYMORE!

MASTER DANE RETURNED HOME FROM HIS TIME TRIP THEN, WORN, WEARY AND DEEPLY DISHEARTENED.
ALL HIS LIFE, HE HAD DREAMED OF SAVING THE ALAMO... SAVING THE LIFE OF HIS FOREBEAR -- PARRISH DANE.
WHEN PARRISH DANE DIED AT HIS SIDE, M LORD FELT AS THOUGH HE HAD FAILED IN HIS LIFE'S MISSION!
IT WAS WEEKS BEFORE HE WAS AGAIN ENTHUSIASTIC ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT ANOTHER TRIP.
HE WANTED MORE THAN ALL ELSE TO TRAVEL BACK... TO MEET HIS ANCESTORS!
AND IT WAS ON THAT SECOND TRIP THAT HE MET YOU...HIS GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER!
AND ALL THAT OCCURED THEN--!
MANNERS! MANNERS! THE TIME CASTLE...IT'S RETURNING!
GOOD LORD!
T-THERE'S NO ONE INSIDE!
THERE IS SOMETHING... BLOOD!
OH, MR MANNERS ... NO! T-THE MASTER'S DEAD!??
IF HE'S NOT, HE SHOULD BE! WHEN HE SAVED ME, HE WENT UP AGAINST THE DEADLIEST MAN IN THE WEST...GAT HAWKIN!
AND IF HE'S ANY KIN OF MINE, HE WENT BACK TO FINISH HIS WORK AFTER HE LEFT ME HERE!
YOU! TIN MAN! HELP ME INTO THIS CONTRAPTION!
SIR...YOU... YOU CAN'T...! YOU'RS TOO WEAK!
WHO THE HELL'S GONNA STOP ME, USELESS ? YOU ?
I OWE THAT BOY! HE'S SAVED ME TWICE NOW?
T-TWICE...?
I WAS LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS -- WHEN HE BROUGHT ME HERE. BUT WHEN I LOOKED INTO HIS FACE...I SAW A FLICKER...SOMETHING FAMILIAR!
NOW...NOW I KNOW! I...I SAW HIM ONCE BEFORE..! I -- I WAS FRIGHTENED CONFUSED, THEN TOO.
BUT BECAUSE OF HIM . I WAS THE ONLY PERSON TO SURVIVE.. THE ALAMO!
HIS KNIFE JAMES BOWIE

END 23

THE *ROOK*. A SECRETIVE, SINGULAR MAN. A MYSTERIOUS LEGEND. AN ADVENTURER IN TIME.

A MAN FOR ALL CENTURIES SPINNING AN AWESOME MYTH BETWEEN THE TICKS OF THE CLOCK. HIS STORY BEGAN *HERE*. THE TIME, 1836. THE PLACE, THE COTTONWOOD .. SOON TO BE INFAMOUS AS . *EL ALAMO!*

The ROOK™

THE DAY BEFORE TOMORROW

TOMORROW HAD *ALREADY* HAPPENED. BUT THE DAY BEFORE TOMORROW HAD JUST DAWNED ABOVE A BLISTERING HOT TEXICAN FRONTIER.

THIS MORNING THE STIFLING SAN ANTONIO WIND HEARD THE CHALLENGING SOUND OF A *DARE!* A DARE WHICH GRATED TO THE RASP OF A SABRE DRAWING A LINE IN THE SAND. THE REPLY HEARD WAS THE THUNDER OF 186 PAIRS OF *BOOTS CROSSING* THAT LINE.

YET, ONE MAN DID *NOT* REPLY. ONE STOOD *ALONE! GAT HAWKIN!*

I'M GOIN' OVER THE WALL.

STORY: BUDD LEWIS / ART: LUIS BERMEJO

TIRED OF WAITIN' ON THE NEXT CHARGE EH BOYS? FEEL LIKE STIRRING THEM CRAZY MESKINS UP A BIT? FOOLS!
BDOOM!
YOU'RE JUST HOPING TO TRAP ME BETWEEN YOUR GUNS AND SANTA ANNA'S KILLERS!
BUT IT WON'T NEVER HAPPEN!
YOU DONE STIRRED 'EM UP...BUT I'M GETTIN' DOWN IN THAT CREEK BED AND PULL IN THE COVERS OVER MY HEAD!
BDOOM!
WHOMP!
WHOOEE! MADE IT BY THE SKIN OF MY SWEET RUMP!
BEEWEEE!
YACHOW!
BADOW!
MY GOD! IT'S A TASTE OF ARMAGEDDON!
WHUMP!
BDOOM!
BMMMP!
B-BUT... WHAT'S THAT...?
I...I'M HAVING A DREAM IN THE MIDDLE OF A NIGHT-MARE!
INCREDIBLE! THAT—THAT THING LOOKS LIKE A ROOK! A CHESSPIECE!
AN'—AN' SOMEONE'S COMING OUT OF IT!?
BDAM!
BOOM!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE, THAT CHESSPIECE IS A MACHINE! IT BROUGHT THAT FELLA INTO THIS CRAZY BLOODBATH—AND IT JUST MIGHT GET ME OUT OF IT!
STING!
ZING!

WHUMPP!
OH GOD--
HYAHHH!
;UHH!'S EXPLOSION... NEAR KILLED ME! SO...SO...WEAK...HEAD POUNDING!
IT...IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL OVER! EVERYONE... EVERYONE'S DEAD EXCEPT... SOMEONE...SOMEONE THERE!
THEY'RE GOING TOWARDS THE ROOKPIECE! MUST STOP THEM...IT'S MINE...MINE! I'LL KILL FOR IT!
MMMMMMMMM
NOOO! IT'S MY MACHINE!! ;UGHN!;
MMMMMMMMM
TZZZK!
TH...THIEF...! MY MACHINE... DON'T...DON'T! ;UGHN!;
MMMMMMMMM

TIME SPINS AROUND AND ROUND.. AND THE MAN ..GAT HAWKIN.. FINDS HIMSELF FALLING.. FALLING .THROUGH AN ENDLESS LIMBO!
AND AS SUDDENLY AS IT STARTED ..THE MOTIONS COME TO AN ABRUPT STOP!
-UGHN!- IT...IT WAS!....NIGHTMARE!
HEAD..HEAD'S STILL SPINNING, THROBBING!
S-SOMEONE'S COMING OUT OF THE MACHINE ..GOT. GOT TO GET MY HEAD ABOUT ME! HIDE! WEAK...GROGGY!
ITS OVER, THE ALAMO IS HISTORY NOW. YESTERDAY.
HISTORY? WHAT...?
ITS HIM! THE ROCK RIDER! HE CAME BACK! GOD, STILL SO GROGGY! CAN BARELY SEE HIM! AND.. AND A BOY! THAT KNIFE! THAT'S COL. BOWIE'S KNIFE!
THEN.. THEN THE ALAMO'S FALLEN FOR SURE! THEY'RE ALL DEAD! THAT'D BE THE ONLY WAY TO GET THAT BIG KNIFE AWAY FROM BOWIE! THEN.

IT'S TOMORROW! IT WAS TODAY I MEAN YESTERDAY JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO! DAMNIT! IF I COULD JUST CLEAR MY MIND I COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
OH MY GOD! THAT... THAT ROOK RIDE... HE...HE'S A WIZARD! AN ENGINEER! THIS MACHINE...THIS ROOK...IT'S A ...TIME MACHINE!
AND... AND HE'S LEAVING IN IT!
NO! NO! DON'T LEAVE, ROOK MAN! DON'T LEAVE ME!
DONT--! UHHH!
AGAIN, METAL CARESSES METAL! GAT HAWKIN'S WRIST BAND TOUCHES THE HULL OF THE TIME MACHINE AND SPARKS GLISTEN AND FLY.
AND AGAIN. THE SOLE DESERTER OF A DYING FORT IS PULLED THROUGH TIME!
I...I'M A FAILURE! WITH ALL MY MODERN WEAPONRY AND GADGETS I COULDN'T EVEN SAVE MY OWN ANCESTOR AT THE ALAMO! OH GOD! SO WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW?
T-THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TRY AGAIN! I COULD NEVER CAPTURE THAT ONE SEGMENT OF TIME! IT'S LOST TO ME FOR ALL ETERNITY!
AND YET, I STILL EXIST! I'M HERE! SO THERE MUST BE ANOTHER LINK BETWEEN ME AND THE PAST! PARRISH DANE DIED AT THE ALAMO! BUT BEFORE HE DIED, HE MUST HAVE LEFT A SON...OR I COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN HIS DESCENDANT!
OH DAMN! NOW WHAT'S THIS? THE TIME MACHINE IS SHORT CIRCUITING! BUT, BUT WHY??
THIS WHOLE THING IS TURNIN' OUT TO BE A BUST! I GOT TO PUT DOWN IN SOME WHEN FOR REPAIRS! THOSE HIGH TEMPERED MESKINS MUST'VE SHOT MY MACHINE TO HELL!

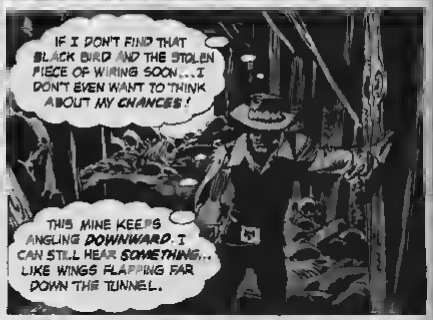
1874, A LITTLE NOWHERE TOWN SOMEWHERE IN ARIZONA ..!
Professer Dungbat's
Traveling CARNIVAL
And Wild West Show
see the
MASTER GUNFIGHTER
The World's Fastest Gun
AND OWNER OF JIM BOWIE'S KNIFE!
AH, I'VE LATCHED ON TO A TIME FRAGMENT. SEVERAL HOURS LONG TOO!
TIME ENOUGH FOR ME TO MAKE MY REPAIRS AND GET OUT OF HERE.
THIS TIME TRAVEL THING IS STILL NEW TO ME! IT CAN BE TRULY BEWILDERING. I'VE GOT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TIME AND HOW TO CONTROL IT!
BET I'M THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WHO EVER FOUND OUT ABOUT THE EXISTANCE OF TIME FRAGMENTS AND CERTAINLY THAT'S THE ONLY MACHINE EVER BUILT TO USE THEM!
THE THING THAT FRIGHTENS ME, THOUGH, IS WHAT HAPPENS TO ME AND THE TIME CASTLER WHEN WE GET CAUGHT IN A TIME ZONE AND THE FRAGMENT ENDS WHEN TIME LITERALLY RUNS OUT?
IF THE TIME FRAGMENT CEASES TO EXIST AND I M STILL IN IT . WILL I BE TRAPPED IN ... NOWHEN? IT'S A CHILLING THOUGHT!
I'VE STILL GOT SO MUCH TO LEARN! AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES.. OR IT LL BE THE END OF RESTIN DANE!
THE WAY THE CASTLER IS RUNNING AFTER BEING SHOT UP LIKE THAT COULD PROVE MY UNDOING, TOO!
GOT TO SCROUNGE AROUND AND SEE IF I CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING TO PIECE THIS CIRCUITRY BACK TOGETHER...SO I CAN GET BACK TO 1977!
EH? WHAT'S THAT SOUND? LIKE --?
HEY! YOU! GET AWAY FROM THERE!

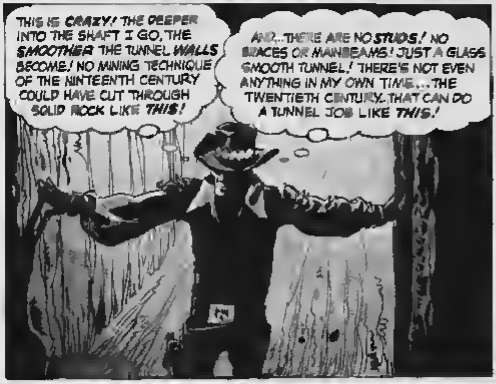
GAWK! GWAK!
A RAVEN! HA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING PECKING AROUND IN THERE? LOOKING FOR A ROOST?
RAVENS ARE ALSO CALLED ROOKS, AREN'T THEY? A ROOK LOOKING FOR A ROOKERY INSIDE A ROOK? WEIRDER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED I SUPPOSE.
HEY, BIRD! DO ME A FAVOR AND DON'T LEAVE ME ANY SURPRISES ON THAT INSTRUMENT PANEL. I'M HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE MAKING THIS RIG WORK WITHOUT BIRD DROPPINGS GUNKING UP THE WORKS!
HEY!
TOINGGGG!
YOU THIEVIN' DEVIL PUT THAT BACK! YOU'RE STEALING VITAL CIRCUITRY WIRE THERE! I CAN'T GET THIS MACHINE TIME BORNE WITHOUT THAT WIRE! GIMME IT!
GAWK!
DAMN CRAZY CROW! COME BACK HERE!
SHEEE--!
SO THIS IS A MASTER GUNFIGHTER! AN' HE'S COMIN' T'TOWN WITH THE ORIGINAL BOWIE KNIFE!
MASTER GUNFIGHTER
NOW WHERE WAS IT I LAST SEEN THAT KNIFE?

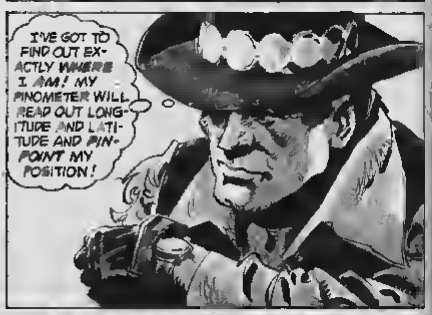
DAMN! WITHOUT THAT WIRE I'LL BE STRANDED IN THIS TIME ZONE..
...IF I'M STILL HERE WHEN THIS 1874 TIME FRAGMENT RUNS OUT!
COME BACK HERE, YOU BLASTED BIRD!
GOTTA FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS MASTER GUNFIGHTER!
HEY, YOU! KID! COMERE!
SHOW
YOU EVER HEARD OF THIS— MASTER GUN-FIGHTER? THIS GUY WITH JIM BOWIE'S KNIFE?
Y-YESSIR— I HEARD OF HIM! E-EVER BODY'S HEARD OF THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER! HE USETA BE TOP GUN IN THESE PARTS! BIGGER EVEN THAN WYATT EARP OR BILLY TH' KID!
NAW! IT..IT JUST CAN'T BE!
SAY, KID.. WHAT YEAR IS THIS ANYWAY?
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW? IT'S 1874, MISTER! WHERE YOU BEEN LIVIN'? UNDER A ROCK?
KID, I AIN'T BEEN LIVIN' NOWHERE SINCE 1836 JUST TRAVELIN'! FAST! REAL FAST!
BACK THEN, THAT ROOK RIDER GAVE BOWIE'S KNIFE TO A KID 'BOUT FOURTEEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS OLD ADD THAT TO THE THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS PAST AND MAYBE... JUST MAYBE THIS MASTER GUN-FIGHTER AND THAT KID IN THE PAST WERE ONE AND THE SAME!
WHAT'S THIS MASTER GUNFIGHTER'S NAME, BOY!
YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHING, MISTER! HECK, EVERYBODY KNOWS BISHOP DANE!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES.. IF I DO, IT'S THE END OF RESTIN DANE!
RESTIN DANE! BISHOP DANE! BY GOD! THAT ROOK MAN CAME BACK IN TIME TO SAVE HIS OWN ANCESTOR'S LIFE!
THAT TIME MACHINE! I WANT IT! AND NOW, BY GOD! I'LL HAVE IT!

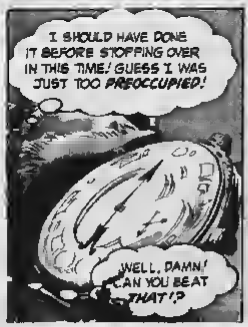
OH GREAT!
THAT ROOK THIEVIN' CROW'S FLYING STRAIGHT FOR AN ABANDONED MINE SHAFT! I'LL NEVER FIND HIM NOW...OR MY INSTRUMENT WIRE!

CAN'T SEE A THING! IT'S BLACKER THAN MY LAWYER'S HEART IN HERE! BUT I CAN STILL HEAR! AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT BIRD'S GOING DEEP INTO THIS SHAFT!


IF I DON'T FIND THAT BLACK BIRD AND THE STOLEN PIECE OF WIRING SOON...I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT MY CHANCES!
THIS MINE KEEPS ANGLING DOWNWARD. I CAN STILL HEAR SOMETHING... LIKE WINGS FLAPPING FAR DOWN THE TUNNEL.


THIS IS CRAZY! THE DEEPER INTO THE SHAFT I GO, THE SMOOTHER THE TUNNEL WALLS BECOME! NO MINING TECHNIQUE OF THE NINTEENTH CENTURY COULD HAVE CUT THROUGH SOLID ROCK LIKE THIS!
AND...THERE ARE NO STUDS! NO BRACES OR MAINBEAMS! JUST A GLASS SMOOTH TUNNEL! THERE'S NOT EVEN ANYTHING IN MY OWN TIME...THE TWENTIETH CENTURY...THAT CAN DO A TUNNEL JOB LIKE THIS!

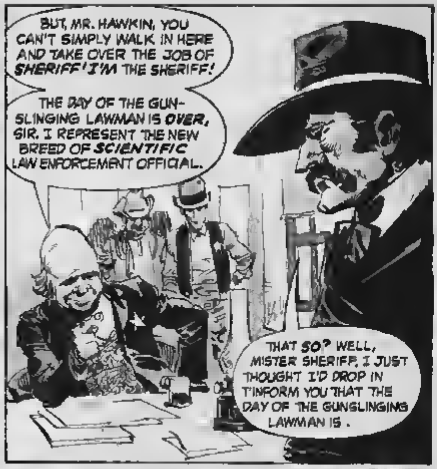

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE I AM! MY PINOMETER WILL READ OUT LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE AND PINPOINT MY POSITION!

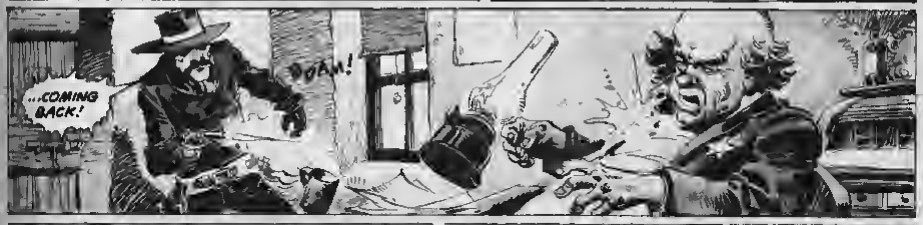

I SHOULD HAVE DONE IT BEFORE STOPPING OVER IN THIS TIME! GUESS I WAS JUST TOO PREOCCUPIED!
WELL, DAMN! CAN YOU BEAT THAT!?

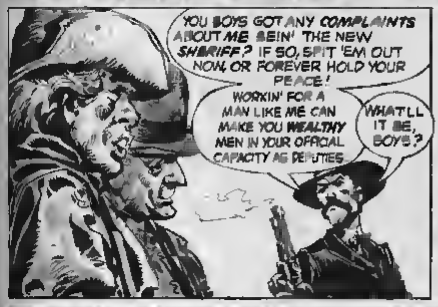
JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW MUCH THINGS CHANGE WITH TIME. RIGHT NOW...OR IN ONE HUNDRED AND THREE YEARS FROM NOW, I'D BE STANDING DIRECTLY UNDER MY ROOK CASTLE!
HAH! I NEVER EVEN KNEW THIS MINE SHAFT EXISTED!
CAW!!

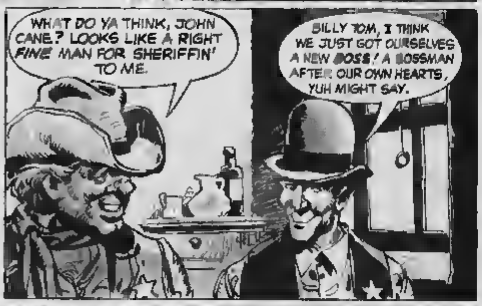
OHOH! ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT BIRD WITH MY INSTRUMENT WIRE! IF I DON'T CATCH HIM SOON, THE ROOK CASTLE WILL NEVER BE BUILT A CENTURY FROM NOW!

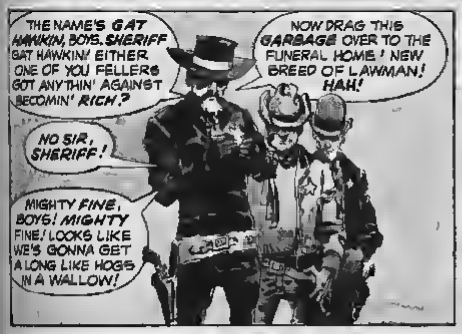
NOW TO PAY A LITTLE VISIT TO THE LOCAL LAW OFFICE...AND APPLY FOR A JOB!
SHERIFF

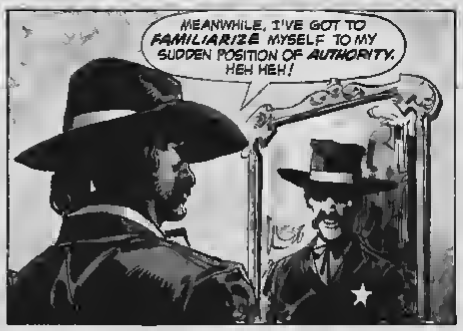

BUT, MR. HAWKIN, YOU CAN'T SIMPLY WALK IN HERE AND TAKE OVER THE JOB OF SHERIFF! I'M THE SHERIFF!
THE DAY OF THE GUN-SLINGING LAWMAN IS OVER, SIR. I REPRESENT THE NEW BREED OF SCIENTIFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL.
THAT SO? WELL, MISTER SHERIFF, I JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP IN T'INFORM YOU THAT THE DAY OF THE GUNSLINGING LAWMAN IS.


...COMING BACK!
BOOM!

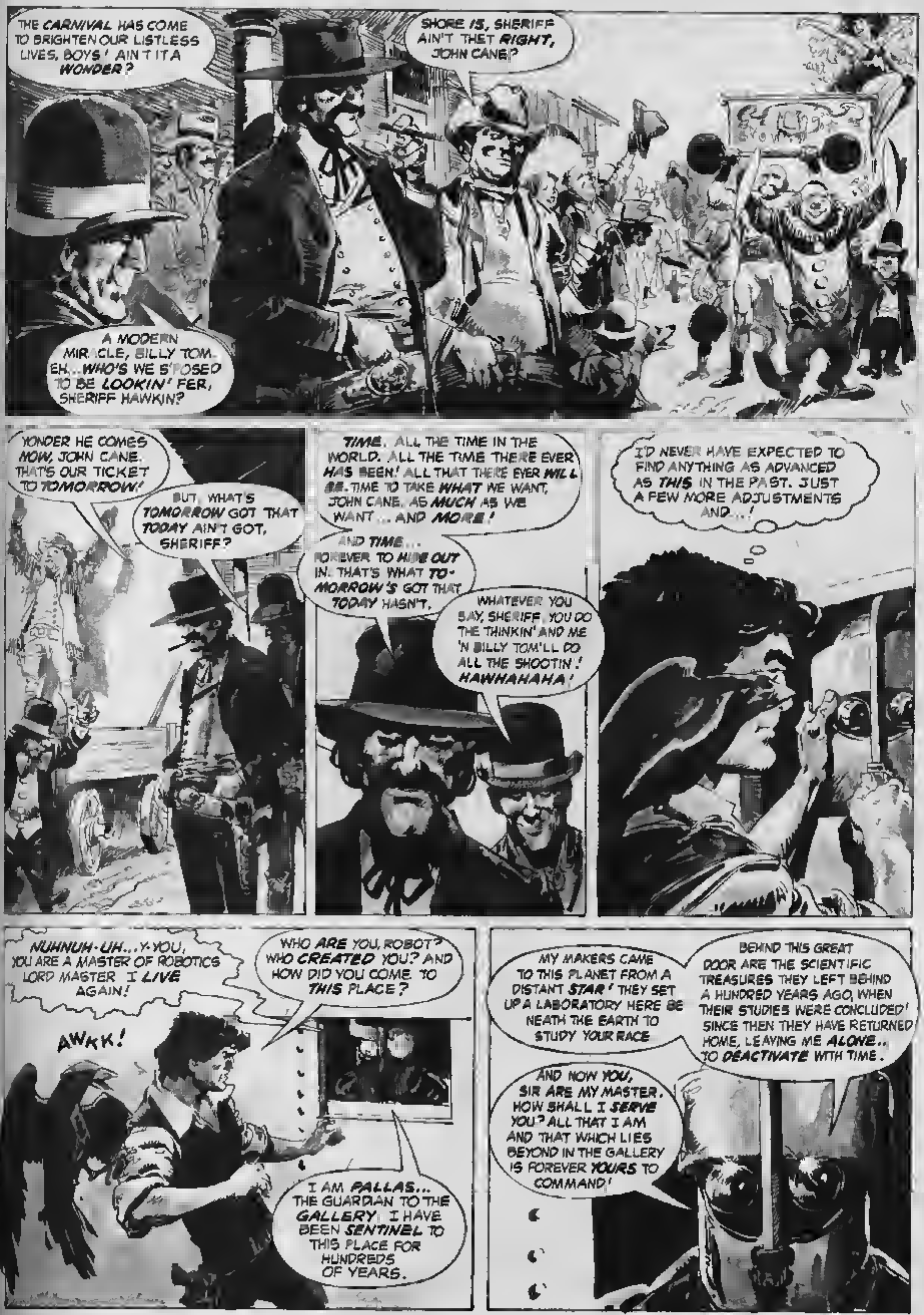

YOU BOYS GOT ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT ME BEIN' THE NEW SHERIFF? IF SO, SPIT 'EM OUT NOW, OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE!
WORKIN' FOR A MAN LIKE ME CAN MAKE YOU WEALTHY MEN IN YOUR OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS DEPUTIES
WHAT'LL IT BE, BOYS?


WHAT DO YA THINK, JOHN CANE? LOOKS LIKE A RIGHT FINE MAN FOR SHERIFFIN' TO ME.
BILLY TOM, I THINK WE JUST GOT OURSELVES A NEW BOSS! A BOSSMAN AFTER OUR OWN HEARTS, YUH MIGHT SAY.

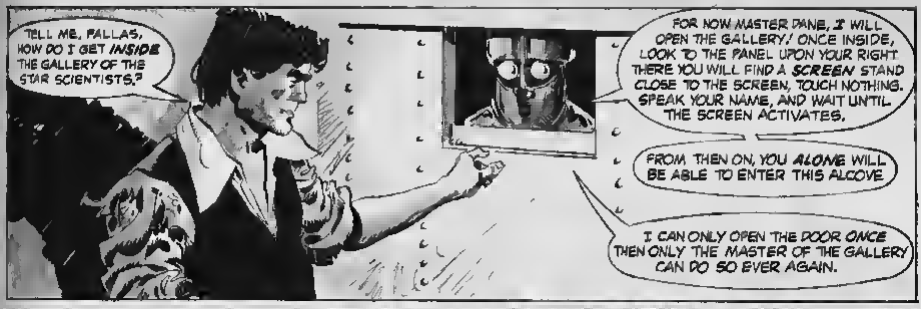

THE NAME'S GAT HAWKIN, BOYS. SHERIFF GAT HAWKIN! EITHER ONE OF YOU FELLERS GOT ANYTHIN' AGAINST BECOMIN' RICH?
NOW DRAG THIS GARBAGE OVER TO THE FUNERAL HOME! NEW BREED OF LAWMAN! HAH!
NO SIR, SHERIFF!
MIGHTY FINE, BOYS! MIGHTY FINE! LOOKS LIKE WE'S GONNA GET A LONG LIKE HOGS IN A WALLOW!


MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT TO FAMILIARIZE MYSELF TO MY SUDDEN POSITION OF AUTHORITY. HEH HEH!

WHAT WAS THAT? SOMETHING MOVED IN THE DARK JUST AHEAD!
ANOTHER SOUND. LIKE... LIKE A MUFFLED VOICE!
GONNA NEED SOME LIGHT. A SOLAR DISC FROM MY HAT BAND SHOULD PROVIDE ENOUGH... EVEN DOWN HERE.
AH LIGHT!
THERE! THE MUFFLED VOICE AGAIN. COMING FROM DIRECTLY AHEAD! LET'S TAKE A LOOK AND SEE WHO, BESIDES ME AND THE BLACK BIRD, IS IN THIS HOLE!
MY GOD!
A... A ROBOT! BY NED, IT'S A ROBOT! IN 1874! IN-CREDIBLE!
THE BLACK BIRD LED ME DIRECTLY TO IT. BUT BUT IT'S NOT ACTIVATED!
OLD BIRD YOU'RE NOT SO STUPID AFTER ALL. YOU STOLE THE WIRE SO I'D FOLLOW YOU TO THIS ROBOT!
GIMME THAT WIRE. YOU'RE TALKIN' TO RESTIN DANE, THE ROBOT KING! I'LL HAVE THAT TIN MAN HUMMING IN NO TIME!


THE CARNIVAL HAS COME TO BRIGHTEN OUR LISTLESS LIVES, BOYS! AIN'T IT A WONDER?
SHORE IS, SHERIFF AIN'T THET RIGHT, JOHN CANE?
A MODERN MIR-CLE, BILLY TOM. EH... WHO'S WE S'POSED TO BE LOOKIN' FER, SHERIFF HAWKIN?
YONDER HE COMES, NOW, JOHN CANE. THAT'S OUR TICKET TO TOMORROW!
BUT, WHAT'S TOMORROW GOT THAT TODAY AIN'T GOT, SHERIFF?
TIME. ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD. ALL THE TIME THERE EVER HAS BEEN! ALL THAT THERE EVER WILL BE. TIME TO TAKE WHAT WE WANT, JOHN CANE, AS MUCH AS WE WANT... AND MORE!
AND TIME... FOREVER TO HIDE OUT IN. THAT'S WHAT TOMORROW'S GOT THAT TODAY HASN'T.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SHERIFF. YOU DO THE THINKIN' AND ME 'N BILLY TOM'LL DO ALL THE SHOOTIN'! HAWHAHAHA!
I'D NEVER HAVE EXPECTED TO FIND ANYTHING AS ADVANCED AS THIS IN THE PAST. JUST A FEW MORE ADJUSTMENTS AND...!
NUHNUH-UH... Y-YOU, YOU ARE A MASTER OF ROBOTICS LORD MASTER. I LIVE AGAIN!
AWKK!
WHO ARE YOU, ROBOT? WHO CREATED YOU? AND HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS PLACE?
I AM PALLAS... THE GUARDIAN TO THE GALLERY. I HAVE BEEN SENTINEL TO THIS PLACE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
MY MAKERS CAME TO THIS PLANET FROM A DISTANT STAR! THEY SET UP A LABORATORY HERE BE NEATH THE EARTH TO STUDY YOUR RACE
BEHIND THIS GREAT DOOR ARE THE SCIENTIFIC TREASURES THEY LEFT BEHIND A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WHEN THEIR STUDIES WERE CONCLUDED! SINCE THEN THEY HAVE RETURNED HOME, LEAVING ME ALONE... TO DEACTIVATE WITH TIME.
AND NOW YOU, SIR ARE MY MASTER. HOW SHALL I SERVE YOU? ALL THAT I AM AND THAT WHICH LIES BEYOND IN THE GALLERY IS FOREVER YOURS TO COMMAND!

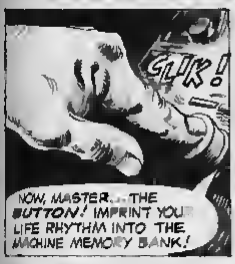
JOHN CANE, WHERE DO I FIND THE MOST DELICIOUS MORSEL OF FEMININE FLESH IN THIS TOWN?
THE MARRYIN' KIND OR THE DANCIN' KIND, SHERIFF?
ONE WHO DANCES TO MY MUSIC, SON.
THAT'D BE KATE McCALL.' YOU'LL FIND 'ER AT THE TOP A THE STAIRS, SHERIFF_ FIRST DOOR T'YER LEFT'
MISS KATE McCALL? YOU'RE A THOUSAND TIMES MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE BOYS SAID YOU'D BE.
FORGIVE THE INTRUSION. THE NAME'S HAWKIN. GAT HAWKIN.' YOUR NEW SHERIFF! I'VE GOT BUSINESS TO TALK OVER WITH YOU, MA'AM.
I CONDUCT MY BUSINESS DOWNSTAIRS SHERIFF GAT HAWKIN MY BOUDOIR DOESN'T HAVE A CASH REGISTER!
YOU'LL CONDUCT YOUR BUSINESS WHEN AND WHERE I SAY, WOMAN! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
NOW YOU LISTEN REAL CLOSE OR SHERIFF GAT'LL BE BACK TO TEAR THAT PRETTY FACE OFF YOUR HEAD!
THIS IS MY TOWN NOW LADY. AND THERE'S GARBAGE LITTERING MY STREETS! BUT YOU'RE JUST ABOUT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF OLD GAT'S SANITATION DEPARTMENT!
MAKE YOUR PITCH, SHERIFF, AND THEN CRAWL ON OUT OF HERE YOU'RE STINKIN' UP MY BEDROOM!
THERE'S A CERTAIN GENTLEMAN YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THIS EVENING. HE'S BILLED FAR AND WIDE AS THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER. BISHOP DANE'S HIS NAME.
YOU'RE GOING TO BRING HIM UP HERE GET HIM DRUNK AND STEAL HIS MONEY.' AS SOON AS YOU DO THAT, MY DEPUTIES'LL BUST IN AND ARREST DANE FOR VAGRANCY!
GOT IT.?
YES, BLAST YOU...! I GOT IT!


TELL ME, PALLAS, HOW DO I GET INSIDE THE GALLERY OF THE STAR SCIENTISTS?
FOR NOW MASTER DANE, I WILL OPEN THE GALLERY. ONCE INSIDE, LOOK TO THE PANEL UPON YOUR RIGHT THERE YOU WILL FIND A SCREEN STAND CLOSE TO THE SCREEN, TOUCH NOTHING. SPEAK YOUR NAME, AND WAIT UNTIL THE SCREEN ACTIVATES.
FROM THEN ON, YOU ALONE WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THIS ALCOVE.
I CAN ONLY OPEN THE DOOR ONCE THEN ONLY THE MASTER OF THE GALLERY CAN DO SO EVER AGAIN.

SCREEEE!
ENTER AND BEHOLD!

GOOD LORD...! A TREASURE-HOUSE OF SCIENTIFIC WONDERS! WITH THE MACHINERY IN THIS GALLERY I CAN CARRY ON MY WORK NO MATTER WHICH CENTURY I'M IN.
MASTER DANE... I CAN ONLY HOLD THE DOOR OPEN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS. GO TO THE SCREEN, QUICKLY.

I AM RESTIN DANE, MASTER OF THE GALLERY.


CLIK!
NOW, MASTER... THE BUTTON! IMPRINT YOUR LIFE RHYTHM INTO THE MACHINE MEMORY BANK.

DZZZZZZZT!
H-HUH ? W-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

PALLAS!

I...I'M BLIND!

SO YOU'RE BISHOP DANE, THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER!
AND YOU, MISS, ARE THE MOST ENCHANTING CREATURE I'VE EVER HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING!
I'M KATE McCALL. I OWN THE EL DORADO SALOON.
IT'S AWFULLY DUSTY AROUND THE CARNIVAL, MISS McCALL. WON'T YOU LET ME ESCORT YOU FOR A DRINK OF SOMETHING SOCIABLE?
WHY DID YOU BLIND ME, PALLAS? I.. I THOUGHT--!
THE BLINDNESS IS ONLY TEMPORARY, MASTER DANE! YOU WILL FIND OUT WHY THIS HAD TO HAPPEN THE NEXT TIME YOU UTILIZE THE GALLERY.
I WILL INSTRUCT THE BIRD TO LEAD YOU SAFELY OUT OF THE TUNNEL.
YOU...YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE BIRD?
AS WITH ALL LIVING THINGS UPON EARTH YOU'LL FIND IT USEFUL. INCIDENTALLY, I'VE INSTRUCTED THE BIRD TO REPLACE YOUR STOLEN CIRCUITRY WIRE.
SO. UNTIL YOU MESD ME...AND THE GALLERY, MASTER...FAREWELL
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE YOU BEFORE, BISHOP I..I'D LIKE TO STAY WITH YOU GET TO KNOW YOU.
I JUST DON'T SEE HOW I CAN LOVE AND LEAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU, KATE!
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO RUN AWAY FROM ALL THIS TIRESOME LUXURY AND JOIN THE THRILL AND SQUALOR OF THE CARNIVAL?
OH...OH, BISHOP, I...I CAN'T DO IT...! I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT THIS. I... I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU...THE TRUTH.
WHAT--WHAT IS IT, KATE? YOU CAN TELL ME, I'T...IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AS TO HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.
OH, BISH...HE MADE ME SET YOU UP! HE FORCED ME TO BRING YOU HERE...TO GET YOU DRUNK, STEAL YOUR MONEY! HE--HE WANTS TO CATCH YOU!
WHAT? WHO YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, KATIE GIRL?
QUICKLY, BISHOP! RUN AWAY! GET OUT OF HERE. THROUGH THE WINDOW. I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW; JUST RUN...RUN BEFORE--!
MAKE A MOVE, GUNFIGHTER AND I BLOW YOUR HANDS OFF!

DAMN THEM BOYS! I TOLD 'EM NOT TO KILL BISHOP DANE! IF THEY'S MURDERED HIM, I'LL WRING THEIR--!
BOOM! BLAM! K-RASH!
WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE? OH GOD! DON'T TELL ME, LET ME GUESS...!
EVERYTHING WAS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN UNTIL MISS KATIE TIPPED OFF TH'OLD MAN ABOUT THIS BEING A SET UP..!
DANE WAS READY WHEN YOU BUSTED IN TO ARREST HIM! HE SHOT BILLY TOM, SLUGGED YOU, JOHN CANE AND JUMPED OUT THE WIN DOW AND ESCAPED!
GOSH, GAT WE... WE'S SORRY!
DON'T WORRY NONE ABOUT IT BOY WHEREAS BEFORE I MIGHT HAVE HAD BISHOP DANE ON A CROOKED CHARGE, NOW I GOT HIM FOR MURDER OF OUR BELOVED FRIEND BILLY TOM! HAHA!
AT LEAST I KNOW WHERE DANE WENT, GAT I HEARD THE GIRL TELL 'IM WHEN SHE THOUGHT I WAS OUT COLD!
THERE'S AN OLD MEXICAN HACIENDA DOWN THE ROAD! WE CAN FIND 'IM THERE!
I PITY YOU, WOMAN! YOU CROSSED THE WRONG MAN WHEN YOU CROSSED GAT HAWKIN!
NOW, WHEN I TURN LOOSE OF YOU, YOU GET ONE OF YOUR PRETTY LITTLE SALOON GIRLS TO RIDE UP TO THE LOW BUTTE OVERLOOKIN' TOWN. THERE SHE'LL FIND A STRANGE FELLER ...A ROOK MAN, WITH A MACHINE SHAPED LIKE A CHESSPIECE!
YOU HAVE YOUR GIRL GIVE HIM A MESSAGE...!
THAT ANIMAL SHOULD BE SHOT FOR BEATING A WOMAN THE WAY HE BEAT YOU, MISS KATE!
I'M ALRIGHT, JANUARY, A LITTLE SORE IS ALL, BUT PLEASE, HURRY! WE'VE GOT TO WARN THIS MAN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FIND ONLY HE CAN SAVE BISHOP DANE NOW.
HHIII!

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ME? I.. I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW COULD YOU EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE..? AND THIS GAT HAWKIN PERSON YOU'RE SPEAKING OF... HOW COULD HE KNOW?
WHAT'S MORE... THIS OTHER MAN... BISHOP DANE..! YOU SAY HE HAS JIM BOWIE'S KNIFE AND GAT HAWKIN IS GONNA KILL HIM UNLESS I COME QUICK!?
I SURELY DON'T UNDERSTAND IT ALL, LADIES! BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE CAUSED A SLEW OF TROUBLE WITH MY TIME TRAVELLING!
YOU SURE YOU CAN'T SHED MORE LIGHT ON THIS, MISS... MISS--?
JANUARY BOONE: I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT ALL MEANS, I JUST NOW SORT OF CAME IN IT... LIKE YOU.
WELL, COME ON DOWN, JANUARY BOONE. MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOME ANSWERS IN MY TIME TAPES. THANK GOD MY VISION'S CLEARED. IT WOULDN'T DO TO TAKE ON A MYSTERY THIS SIZE WHILE BEING MORE IN THE DARK THAN I ALREADY AM!
COME INTO MY TIME CASTLE AND I'LL SHOW YOU WONDERS THE LIKE OF WHICH YOU'VE NEVER SEEN!
..SO THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY!? GAT HAWKIN WAS AT THE ALAMO! HE FOUND OUT MY SECRET AND CAME TO 1874 WITH ME! NOW HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET HIS CROOKED HANDS ON MY MACHINE.
BUT MORE... NOW I KNOW! THAT KID I SAVED AT THE ALAMO IS THE SAME PERSON HOLED UP INSIDE THE HACIENDA RIGHT NOW..! HE'S MY OWN GREAT, GREAT, GRANDFATHER, BISHOP DANE... THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER!
LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BECOME SOME SORT OF MASKED AVENGER AND SAVE MY OWN ANCESTOR FROM THE BAD GUYS! ONLY THIS TIME... I PRAY I'M MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN LAST!
OH.. PLEASE SAVE HIM SIR! PLEASE...! I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH A MAN COULD MEAN TO ME UNTIL I MET HIM
I'LL... I'LL DO MY BEST KATE.
DO YOUR BEST FOR ME, TOO, MASKED AVENGER! GET YOUR OWN HIDE OUT IN ONE PIECE... PLEASE!
I.. I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME! ALL I KNOW IS... I'VE NEVER MET A MAN LIKE YOU BEFORE! AND.. AND I'D HATE TO LOSE YOU BEFORE EVEN FINDING YOU, ROCK MAN!
COME BACK SAFE... OKAY?
MISS JANUARY BOONE... THAT'S THE SWEETEST THING ANYONE'S SAID TO ME IN MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS!
YOU'VE GOT MY WORD! I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU!
MMMmm!

THERE'S THE HACIENDA ... AND I DON'T NEED A SCORE CARD TO TELL ME THAT THE GUY WITH THE GATLING GUN ISN'T RONALD MACDONALD!
GAT HAWKIN!
ROOK MAN! YOU SHOWED UP! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
LOOK'S LIKE YOU GET NAMED BY THE MACHINES YOU OWN. NAME'S DANE. RESTIN DANE.
I KNOW THAT, ROOK MAN. SAME NAME AS THE KILLER I GOT TRAPPED DOWN YONDER. DANE. KIN OF YORE'S, IS HE?
YOU KNEW IT BEFORE I DID. IN FACT, YOU KNEW EVERYTHING. YOU PUT IT ALL TOGETHER THAT I WAS A TIME TRAVELER, WHY I WENT BACK TO THE ALAMO, EVERYTHING!
YOU'RE QUITE A CLEVER FELLOW, GAT HAWKIN.
BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU COULDN'T UNDERSTAND AND THAT'S WHY I BUILT A TIME MACHINE. AND WHY I RETURNED TO THE PAST...! YOU CALL ME ROOK. FAIR ENOUGH. ROOK IT IS! BUT WHAT IS ROOK'S GREATEST SECRET?
ALRIGHT, WHAT IS ROOK'S GREATEST SECRET?
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER LEARN, GAT HAWKIN. NOT EVEN IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIFE OF BISHOP DANE!
BUT LET ME SAY THIS... IF I SURRENDERED MY TIME MACHINE TO YOU...THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF THE EARTH WOULD BE FORFEIT!
THEN I'LL KILL BISHOP DANE ..AND YOU'LL CEASE TO EXIST! BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN!
YOU STILL WON'T HAVE THE TIME MACHINE! IT'LL CEASE TO EXIST TOO! I WOULD HAVE NEVER LIVED TO BUILD IT!
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCE! SAY GOOD-BYE, ROOK MAN ..YOU AND YOUR STINKING MASTER GUNFIGHTER CAN MEET IN OBLIVION!
NOOOO!
BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA!

I'VE GOTTA STOP HIM! HIS GATTLIN' GUN IS MAKING SPLINTERS OF THAT CABIN!
BISHOP DANE WILL BE KILLED FOR SURE!
BABABABABABABABABABABA
ONLY ONE CHANCE! IT'S A MILLION TO ONE SHOT! BUT IT'S MY ONLY HOPE!
THIS EXPERIMENTAL TELEPORTER! I...I'VE NEVER USED IT ON A HUMAN BEING...IT'S TOO RISKY! BUT NOW... NOW IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE MY GREAT GREAT, GRANDFATHER!
BA BA
BABA
BABABABABABA!
ALL I CAN DO IS LOCK IN ON THE TIME MACHINE...AND PRAY THIS WILL TELEPORT BOTH ME AND THE OLD MAN OUT OF THE RANGE OF HAWKIN'S GUN!
BABA!
HERE GOES NOTHIN'!
DIRECT HIT! NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS GIVE GAT HAWKIN A MORE APPROPRIATE TARGET!
TOO BAD I CAN'T JUST PUT A BULLET IN HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT...BUT THERE'S NO TELLING HOW THAT WOULD UN-BALANCE HISTORY! AND IT SEEMS I'VE ALREADY DONE MY SHARE OF THAT!
BABABABABABA!
GAT HAWKIN! YOU COWARDLY DOG! YOU'VE GOT TO SHOOT DOWN OLD MEN? WHY NOT KILL ME, YOU CUR? I'M THE ONE YOU REALLY WANT!

THAT YOU ARE, LADDY! AND I OBLIGE YOU FOR THE TARGET PRACTICE!
BABABABABABA!
GOTTA..
RUN, RABBIT! RUN! ONCE YOU'RE INSIDE THAT HUT, YOU AND THE OLD MAN ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD! HA! HA! HA! HA!
BABABABABABABA!
GOTTA
...MAKE IT!
KRASH!
BISHOP DANE! THANK GOD...! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
YOU COME WITH ME, OLD MAN! I'VE GOT US A WAY OUT OF HERE!
RIGHT THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR...! A COUPLE OF INCHES MORE...AND WE'RE SAFE!
BA!BA!
BA!BA!
THAT'S IT, OLD MAN! JUMP! JUMP FOR YOUR LIFE!
BA-BABABABABABA!
WE'RE GOING FOR A RIDE THE LIKE OF WHICH YOU AIN'T NEVER SEEN!
IT WAS FAR FROM OVER. FAR FROM DONE. TOMORROW WAS BEHIND. BUT THE GAME WAS YET TO END. RESTIN DANE. AND BISHOP DANE WERE SAFE.
AND THERE WERE TWO HELPLESS WOMEN. AT THE MERCY OF A RUTHLESS BLACKGUARD WHO WOULD DO ANYTHING TO BECOME...THE MASTER OF ALL TIME!

RESTIN DANE SCIENTIST TECHNICIAN MASTER OF HIS OWN FATE, HIS ENTIRE LIFE HE HAD ONLY ONE GOAL. TO ESCAPE THE GREATEST PRISON EVER TO INCARCERATE MANKIND, TIME ITSELF!
HIS AMBITION! TO BUILD A TIME MACHINE, TO LIVE THE PAST...THE PRESENT...AND ALL ETERNITY!

YESTERDAY, THE FINAL DAY

WITH THE AID OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE, RESTIN DANE'S DREAM WAS REALIZED AND HIS FIRST STOP, HIS FIRST TRIP INTO HISTORY, LED HIM TO THE COTTONWOOD EL ALAMO IN SEARCH OF AN ANCESTOR THERE WHO HAD GIVEN HIS LIFE!

BLAM!
CRAK!
BAM!

WITH MODERN WEAPONRY, HE HAD HOPED TO ALTER THE TIDE OF THAT AWESOME MASSACRE. HE SUCCEEDED ONLY IN PROVING THAT HISTORY CANNOT BE CHANGED!

AND YET, IF NOT CHANGED, HISTORY HAD AT LEAST BEEN MODIFIED. FOR HAD RESTIN DANE NOT TRAVELLED INTO THE PAST, ONE SMALL BOY MIGHT NEVER HAVE LIVED TO BECOME ONE OF THE TWO SURVIVORS OF THE TEXICAN SLAUGHTER.

ONE BRAVE BOY...AND ONE COWARDLY MAN... WHO, QUITE BY ACCIDENT, FOUND HIMSELF TRAVELLING THROUGH TIME, ATTACHED TO THE EXTERIOR OF RESTIN DANE'S TIME CASTLE!

THE MAN GAT HAWKIN! THE POSSESSOR OF A QUICK BUT LASCENOUS BRAIN INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO COMPREHEND THE CAPABILITIES OF A MACHINE ABLE TO SPAN CENTURIES. THIEVISH ENOUGH TO WANT THAT MACHINE FOR HIS VERY OWN AND BRUTAL ENOUGH TO STOP AT NOTHING TO ACQUIRE IT!

STORY: BILL DuBAY/ART: LUIS BERMEJO

LOOK AFTER HIM, MANNERS!
RESTIN DANE. HIS STORY... HISTORY BEGINS HERE! SCANT SECONDS... ONE HUNDRED YEARS... AFTER HE HAS SAVED AN OLD MAN FROM THE THUNDERING GUNS OF GAT HAWKIN!
THE SAME OLD MAN WHO, AS A BOY, SURVIVED THE BRUTALITY OF THE ALAMO THAT MAN. THAT BOY. BISHOP DANE, THE ROOK-RIDER'S GREAT, GREAT GRANDFATHER!
I'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!
AND BY THE TIME I'M THROUGH...
...THERE'LL BE ONE GAT HAWKIN...
...WHO'LL CURSE THE DAY HE EVER HEARD THE NAME... RESTIN DANE!
THE ROOK™

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT ROOK MAN WILL RETURN, SHERIFF? HE'S BEEN GONE NEAR ON A WEEK NOW!
TIME MEANS NOTHING TO HIM, JOHN EARL! HE HAS A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH ME AND IF IT TAKES AN ETERNITY, HE'LL BE BACK TO MAKE ME PAY FOR WHAT I DID TO THAT OLD MAN!
HE MAY NOT COME FOR ME TODAY NOR EVEN TOMORROW OR NEXT YEAR BUT IT'S CERTAIN HE'LL BE BACK!
AND WHEN HE COMES, HE'LL LOOK EXACTLY AS HE DID WHEN WE LAST SAW HIM! HE WON'T EVEN HAVE CHANGED HIS TATTERED CLOTHING!
BECAUSE, MY FRIEND, JOHN, THAT MAN IS A SPOOK! HE CAN POP IN AND OUT OF NOOKS IN TIME EASIER THAN A VULTURE CAN PICK THE GRISTLE FROM A DEAD MAN'S BONES!
WHEN HE GETS HERE... WHENEVER HE GETS HERE... I'LL BE READY FOR HIM!
IT WILL TAKE NOTHING MORE THAN THIS OVERSIZED MIRROR TO PROVE HIS UNKNOWN!
HA! HA! SHERIFF... I AIN'T NEVER SEEN NO ONE SMARTER THAN YOU!
ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT, FRIEND JOHN, AND YOU AND I WILL GET ALONG FAMOUSLY!
GAT!
GAT HAWKIN!
I'VE COME FOR YOU!
YOU SEE, JOHNNY... JUST AS I TOLD YOU!

I'M AWAITING YOU, ROOK-RIDER! COME ON UP!
KRASH!
YOU'RE A COWARD, HAWKIN!
A MURDERING, THIEVING COWARD!
THAT'S CORRECT, ROOK MAN! I'M A SURVIVOR!
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...
...WHILE YOU, VERY SOON...
BRAM!
...WILL NOT BE!
BRAM! BLAM!

GLOR-EEE, SHERIFF! THAT WAS SOME FINE TRICK!
THET TOMFOOL NEVER EVEN KNOWED HE WAS SHOOTIN' AT YOUR MIRROR IMAGE!
JUST AS I WANTED, JOHN HE PROBABLY SUSPECTED A TRAP, BUT WAS TOO DISTRICTED WITH THE SAFETY OF THESE WOMEN TO PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS ME!
I WANT TO THANK YOU LADIES FOR PLAYING YOUR ROLES SO WELL!
YOU'VE GOT JUST ONE MORE TASK BEFORE YOU'RE FREE...! AND THAT, MY DEARS, IS TO REMOVE THIS DREADFUL BODY BEFORE ITS SMELL RENDERS THIS OFFICE UNINHABITABLE!
AFTER WHICH, I'D ADVISE YOU BOTH TO TAKE THE MOST EXPEDIENT MODE OF TRANSPORTATION OUT OF THIS TOWN!
I NEVER WANT TO LAY EYES ON EITHER OF YOU AGAIN!
I NOW BID YOU ADIEU, LADIES. MY DEPUTY AND I HAVE BUSINESS ELSEWHERE. IT SEEMS WE'VE JUST INHERITED A MAGNIFICIENT TIME TRAVEL DEVICE! AND WE MUST SECURE IT BEFORE IT FALLS INTO VILLAINOUS HANDS! HA! HA! HA! HA!
JAN! T-THIS ROOK MAN IS STILL BREATHING!
OH, GOD, KATE! WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO! GET HIM TO SAFETY BEFORE THAT MURDERIN' SHERIFF FINDS OUT AND FINISHES WHAT HE STARTED!
BUT WHERE, KATE? WHERE? NO PLACE IN THIS TOWN IS SAFE FROM GAT HAWKIN!
THERE'S ONE PLACE EVEN HE WOULDN'T DARE TO GO! THAT ABANDONED MINE OUTSIDE TOWN! THE DEVIL'S SHAFT! THAT'S WHERE WE'LL TAKE HIM!

GLOR-EEE, SHERIFF! IT'S A BEAUT! HOW'D YOU KNOW IT'D BE HERE?
BECAUSE THIS, MY SLOW FELLOW, IS THE VERY SPOT WHERE OUR ROOK-RIDING HERO EMERGED INTO THIS WONDEROUS YEAR!

I, I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SHERIFF!
IT'S ALL QUITE BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION, JOHNNY! SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT ONCE I'VE MASTERED THIS DEVICE, I WILL BE THE UNDISPUTED MASTER OF ALL TIME!

A...A MINE SHAFT!? WE'RE GOING TO NURSE A DYING MAN BACK TO HEALTH IN THE PITCH BLACK COLD OF AN ABANDONED MINE?
THAT OR WE LET HIM DIE, JAN! THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT FOR US TO GO!

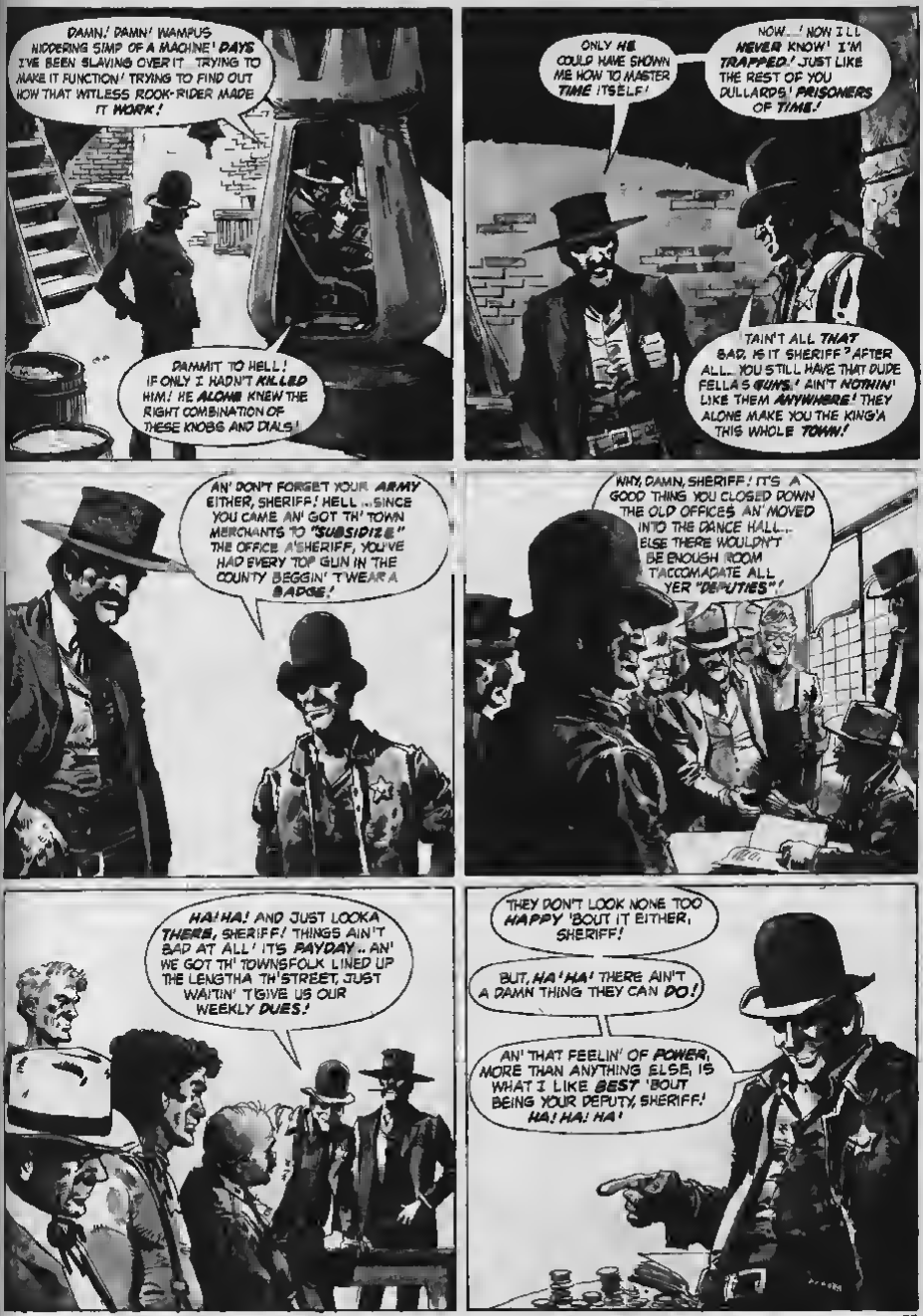
HE'LL BLEED TO DEATH BEFORE WE CAN MAKE THE NEAREST TOWN AND EVERYONE IN CHANCELORSVILLE'S TOO SCARED OF THAT CUT THROAT HAWKIN TO OFFER HELP!
NO, JAN...! WE MAKE OUR STAND HERE! AND GOD HELP US IF WE CAN'T HELP HIM! HE'S ALL THE HOPE WE'VE GOT!

BUT...OH GOD, KATE! I-IN A MINE? I IT'S SO DARK...! SO EERIE!
I...I FEEL LIKE WE'RE SURROUNDED BY GHOSTS! GHOSTS OF A LONG-FORGOTTEN PAST!

AS INDEED YOU ARE, WOMAN.!

ENTER THE LAIR OF THE.. DAMNED!

MEANWHILE... MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER ..IN AN ISOLATED FORTRESS SOMEWHERE IN THE ARIZONA DESERT
M-MR..MANNERS...! MASTER DANE'S BEEN GONE TWO FULL WEEKS! Y-YOU DON'T THINK SOMETHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM!?
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN KNOW FOR SURE, NUTS! NOT UNLESS WE RECALL THE TIME CASTLE...!
BUT..IF WE DID THAT...AND THE MASTER WAS NOWHERE NEAR THE TIME MACHINE...WE MIGHT IRREVOCABLY IMPRISON HIM IN THE PAST!
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO, MR MANNERS?
WE CAN DO AS WE'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED, BOLTS!
WE CAN LOOK AFTER MASTER DANE'S GRANDFATHER...AND WE CAN WAIT!
TIN MAN!
GET IN HERE..IT'S TIME WE TALKED!
AND I ASSURE YOU...THE FIRST PART OF THOSE INSTRUCTIONS IS INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE LATTER!
KATE!
KATE! COME QUICK! I...I THINK HE'S COMING 'ROUND!
W-WHERE AM...I?
EASY, MR DANE..! YOU'RE SAFE!
YOU'RE IN AN UNDERGROUND CHAMBER ..IN THE BOWELS OF AN ABANDONED MINE SHAFT!
AS I UNDERSTAND IT.. YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE!
I.. I'M NOT QUITE SURE EXACTLY WHAT THIS PLACE IS! TH-THAT FACE ON THE DOOR..THE GUARDIAN...TRIED TO EXPLAIN IT..
...SOMETHING ABOUT THE PAST AND THE FUTURE...AND ...ALIEN VISITORS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!
OH...OH, I'M SO SORRY MR DANE. IT'S ALL SO CONFUSING!
BUT FOR NOW ..SLEEP..! JUST SLEEP..AND GET BETTER!
WHEN..WHEN YOU'RE WELL.. MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN!


DAMN! DAMN! WAMPUS, NIDDERING SIMP OF A MACHINE! DAYS I'VE BEEN SLAVING OVER IT TRYING TO MAKE IT FUNCTION! TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW THAT WITLESS ROOK-RIDER MADE IT WORK!
DAMMIT TO HELL! IF ONLY I HADN'T KILLED HIM! HE ALONE KNEW THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF THESE KNOBS AND DIALS!
ONLY HE COULD HAVE SHOWN ME HOW TO MASTER TIME ITSELF!
NOW...! NOW I'LL NEVER KNOW! I'M TRAPPED! JUST LIKE THE REST OF YOU DULLARDS! PRISONERS OF TIME!
TAIN'T ALL THAT BAD, IS IT SHERIFF? AFTER ALL... YOU STILL HAVE THAT DUDE FELLA'S GUNS! AIN'T NOTHIN' LIKE THEM ANYWHERE! THEY ALONE MAKE YOU THE KING'A THIS WHOLE TOWN!
AN' DON'T FORGET YOUR ARMY EITHER, SHERIFF! HELL ... SINCE YOU CAME AN' GOT TH' TOWN MERCHANTS TO "SUBSIDIZE" THE OFFICE A'SHERIFF, YOU'VE HAD EVERY TOP GUN IN THE COUNTY BEGGIN' T'WEAR A BADGE!
WHY, DAMN, SHERIFF! IT'S A GOOD THING YOU CLOSED DOWN THE OLD OFFICES AN' MOVED IN'TO THE DANCE HALL... ELSE THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH ROOM T'ACCOMADATE ALL YER "DEPUTIES"!
HA! HA! AND JUST LOOKA THERE, SHERIFF! THINGS AIN'T BAD AT ALL! IT'S PAYDAY... AN' WE GOT TH' TOWNSFOLK LINED UP THE LENGTHA TH'STREET, JUST WAITIN' T'GIVE US OUR WEEKLY DUES!
THEY DON'T LOOK NONE TOO HAPPY 'BOUT IT EITHER, SHERIFF!
BUT, HA! HA! THERE AIN'T A DAMN THING THEY CAN DO!
AN' THAT FEELIN' OF POWER, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, IS WHAT I LIKE BEST 'BOUT BEING YOUR DEPUTY, SHERIFF! HA! HA! HA!

ALIENS, ROBOTS, TIME-TRAVELLING! OH, MR. DANE... I...I'M SO CONFUSED! I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT
T-THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN FURTHER ..! Y-YOU MUST TRUST ME!

I MUST GET TO MY MACHINE ..BEFORE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
BUT MR DANE - YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION...! SHERIFF HAWKIN ALMOST KILLED YOU!

I...I...MUST! Y-YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND..!
I'M NOT FROM YOUR TIME! I CAN'T STAY HERE MUCH LONGER! F-FOR ME. TIME EXISTS ONLY IN FRAGMENTS!

I CAN COME INTO THE PAST BY CAPTURING ONE OF THOSE FRAGMENTS! BUT ..BUT WHEN THAT SMALL SEGMENT OF TIME COMES TO AN END..I I'LL BE TRAPPED BETWEEN TIMES!
FOREVER IMPRISONED... IN.. NOWHERE!

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH LONGER...I HAVE...! I...I MUST REACH...MY...MACHINE! UGHN!

OH, MR. DANE ..! YOU'RE STILL TOO WEAK! YOU'LL NEVER GET TO YOUR MACHINE ALONE.
P-PLEASE..!
PLEASE..HELP ME! G-GET THE MACHINE! BRING IT!

H-HERE INSTRUCTIONS! T-THEY'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO! T-THE CASTLE...IS SET FOR ..FUTURE! BUT CHANGE IT...! BRING IT..HERE! PLEASE!

OH GOD, KATE! WHAT'LL WE DO?
WE ...WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE MACHINE IS!
YES WE DO, JAN! GAT HAWKIN "INHERITED" IT, REMEMBER?
HE'LL WANT TO KEEP IT HIDDEN WHERE NO MAN CAN SEE AND SINCE HE TOOK OVER THE DANCEHALL...WHERE'S THE BEST HIDING PLACE IN THE WHOLE SALOON?
'WHERE ELSE, KATE.? YOUR WINE CELLAR!"
"RIGHT! NOW ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS GET DOWN THERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN...AND DO EXACTLY AS THESE INSTRUCTIONS SAY!"
MMMMMMMMM
IF IT ISN'T THAT BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED LADY OF THE EVENING, MISS JANUARY BOONE! THIS IS INDEED A PLEASANTRY!
I WAS CERTAIN SOMEONE WOULD TRY TO STEAL MY MACHINE! NEVER, HOWEVER DID I EXPECT IT WOULD BE YOU!
AND WHAT A CLEVER CHILD! YOU'VE DONE WHAT I'VE BEEN UNABLE FOR A FULL WEEK TO DO.. OPERATE THE MACHINE!
AND HOW IS THIS MIRACLE POSSIBLE?

WELL LOOK HERE! PRINTED INSTRUCTIONS! A VERITABLE OPERATOR'S MANUAL FOR THIS VEHICLE!
TAKEN, NO DOUBT, FROM THE BODY OF A CERTAIN DECEASED ROOK MAN!
SHAME, MISS BOONE! STEALING FROM A CORPSE!
MMMMMMM!
JOHNNY. WE MUST TEACH THIS CHILD THAT IT'S A SIN TO STEAL!
N-NO...!
JOHN! STOP HER!
BDAM!
MMMMMM!
DAMN! WOOO! THAT.. THAT LEVER.
MMMMMMMM!
...IT.. IT'S MAKING THE MACHINE DISAPPEAR!
MMMMMMMMM!
NO! NONONONO! I'VE LOST MY MACHINE!

MR MANNERS...! THE TIME CASTLE...!
IT'S RETURNING!
BUT LORD..! OH LORD, MR MANNERS ..!
IT'S EMPTY!
THE MASTER IS TRAPPED.. SOMEWHERE BACK IN TIME!
TRAPPED AND MAYBE DYIN', TIN MAN!
THIS MACHINE'S SPLATTERED WITH FRESH BLOOD!
AND IF GAT HAWKIN HAS A'HOLD A'HIM, YOU CAN BET YOUR TIN BRAIN THIS BLOOD IS THAT OF RESTIN DANE!
OH, MR MANNERS...! WHAT'LL WE DO?
AS I SEE IT, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO...! AND I'M LEAVIN' RIGHT NOW!
BUT SIR...! YOU .. YOU'RE BARELY OUT OF A SICK BED YOURSELF!
'TIN MAN . THAT BOY SAVED MY LIFE TWICE NOW! I OWE HIM
NO ONE'S GONNA STOP ME FROM HELPIN' HIM NOW! NOT EVEN YOU!
EITHER YOU'RE WITH ME . OR I GO ALONE!

JANUARY...! SHE... SHE'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG, MR. DANE!
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO HER!
I ..I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SENT HER... ALONE!
DAMN! DAMN! WHY DIDN'T I GO?
YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF! YOU...YOU'RE STILL TOO WEAK!
WEAK OR NOT... I'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT MACHINE! IF I DON'T, MY DEATH'S AS CERTAIN AS PUTTING A GUN TO MY OWN TEMPLE!
AND YET.. IF GAT HAWKIN HAS MY MACHINE, HOW WILL I GET TO HIM? HE HAS MY CHESSMASTER AND MY AUTOMAG! WHAT CAN I USE AGAINST HIM? THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THIS GALLERY!
T-THE ROBOT...! OF COURSE!
PALLAS! I MUST KNOW...! YOUR MASTERS... THE ALIENS WHO BUILT THIS CAVERN...! THEY MUST HAVE LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND!
THE MACHINERY WITHIN IS WONDEROUS INDEED, SIR! BUT MY MASTERS WERE NOT A WARLIKE RACE! THERE ARE NO WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION HERE --!
WEAPON? YOU WANT A WEAPON, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO, ROOK MAN?
HERE! KATE MCCALL AIN'T DRESSED LESSEN SHE'S SPORTING HER COLT.45!
THERE IS ONE DEVICE WHICH MAY INTEREST YOU, SIRE. IT'S BUT A TOY USED BY MY MASTERS FOR PLEASURE.
PERHAPS IT WILL ALLOW YOU TO ENTER YOUR DESTINATION UNDETECTED...!
WHAT EVER IT IS, ROBOT ..LAY IT ON ME! I NEED ALL THE HELP I CAN GET!

IT'S GOT TO STOP!
OUR ENTIRE TOWN IS BEING BLED BY THESE ...THESE MURDERERS AND THIEVES!

THAT GAT HAWKIN HAS SWUNG THE DOORS A OUR TOWN WIDE OPEN TO THEM!
DECENT FOLK AIN'T SAFE IN THEIR OWN HOMES NO MORE!

LOOK! LOOK WHAT THEY DONE TO MY SADIE! SOB! THREE OF 'EM! THEY THEY FORCED THEIR WAY INTO OUR HOME AN'... AND THEY FORCED HER--! OH GOD! SOB!
THEM ANIMALS! THEY MIGHT JUST AS WELL'A KILLED HER! SHE'D BE BETTER OFF THAN SHE IS NOW!

SOMETHIN'S GOTTA BE DONE!
WE GOTTA TAKE A STAND! NONE'A OUR WIVES OR OUR CHILDREN ARE SAFE!
BUT... BUT THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM! A-AND THEY'RE ALL HIRED GUNS ...PROFESSIONAL KILLERS!

WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE?
GENTLEMEN, WE'VE GOT THE PROVERBIAL SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL...!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO AT LEAST TRY!

DYIN' IS BETTER THAN LIVIN' IN FEAR!
I SAY WE ATTACK 'EM IN FORCE...!
AND WE DO IT NOW!

THIS ... THIS IS A FLYING MACHINE?
ACCORDING TO THE ROBOT GUARDIAN IT WAS USED BY ALIENS THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO ... FOR SHEER SPORT!
BUT BEST OF ALL ... IT'S SILENT! I CAN LAND ON THE ROOF OF THE DANCE-HALL, AND GAT'S BOYS WILL NEVER EVEN HEAR ME COMING!
WE'VE GOT SOME THING LIKE IT WHERE I COME FROM, TOO!
IT RIDES THE WIND WITH THE GRACE OF A SOARING BIRD!
Y-YOU'RE STILL IN NO SHAPE TO TAKE 'EM ALL, COWBOY!
NOW WHAT WOULD YOU THINK OF ME IF I DIDN'T AT LEAST TRY?
IF I DON'T COME BACK...LET ME THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE!
GOOD LUCK, ROOK MAN!
GOD ... YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT!
YEAH ... AGAIN THE ROOK! THE SOARING BLACK BIRD OF THE NIGHT!

MY GOD! IT... IT CAN'T BE! A- A FLYIN' MONSTER!
HEAVEN SAVE ME NOW!
JOHN CANE... DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
NOT A THING, SHERIFF HAWKIN' 'CEPTIN MAYBE A COUPLA BIRDS NESTIN' ON TH' ROOF!
BIRDS!? BIRDS DON'T FLY AT NIGHT...! NO BIRD THAT IS, EXCEPT...
...THE BOOK!
BDAM! DON! BOW!
BDAM! DON! BOW!
NO! N-NOT YOU! Y-YOU'RE DEAD!!
LISTEN TIN MAN! SHOOTING! IT'S COMING FROM THE SALOON!
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME FOR THE FUN!
AND WITH YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT, IT'S GONNA BE SOME FUN, INDEED!

BDOW! BLAM! BDAM! TWING!
LISTEN TO THEM! THE RABBLE! THEY'RE SHOOTING UP OUR TOWN!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
RUN 'EM OUTTA TOWN! ALL OF THEM...
...OR DIE TRYIN'!
SHERIFF
NOOOOO!
OOOOOF!
KSMSHHHHHH!
KSMASHHK!
THE ROOK MAN!
HE DONE MASHED SHERIFF GAT!
GIT 'IM!
KILL HIM!
GIVE 'IM WHA' FO'!
YEP.. JUST IN TIME, TIN MAN..
.. TO SEE MY OFFSPRING TAKE ON THE WHOLE BLAMED TOWN!

HE DON'T NEED US!
BDAM!
WOKT!
BUT I RECKON WE'LL GIT IT DONE FASTER...
BDAM! BDAM! BDAM!
..IF'N WE GIVE THE MAN A HAND, USELESS!
OH GOOD LORD! I-I'T'S DANE!
BISHOP DANE?
GOD HELP US NOW!
BDAM! BDAM!
DON'T SHOOT NO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, ROBOT!
BDOW! BDOWW! G-LANG!
POW!
DAMM!
THE BAD GUYS ARE THE ONES WITH THE LITTLE TARGETS ON THEIR SHIRTS! Y'KNOW... THE ONES WHAT LOOK LIKE STARS!
DOW! POWW! BDAM! BAM! T-KANG! ZIP! ROOF
'BOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE, OLD MAN...!
IF I'D KNOWN FOR SURE YOU WERE COMIN' I WOULDN'T A'STARTED THE WAR WITHOUT YOU!
WHAPT! URK!
HELL... YOU GOTTA LEARN TO START COUNTIN' ON YER OLD GRANDADDY, BOY!
AND YOU, GENTLEMEN, SHOULD KNOW... YOU CAN COUNT ON US!
TWAPP!

HOT DOGGY! THE WHOLE TOWN'S RAISIN' THE ROOF T'NIGHT!
WE'RE GONNA HAVE US ONE HELLAVA HOUSECLEANING!
THERE YOU ARE YA CRINGIN' COWARD! WHAT D'YA MEAN LEAVIN' HOME T'JOIN THIS RIFF RAFF!
THERE'S GONNA BE A LOT OF "LAWMEN" OUT'TA WORK AFTER THIS!
WHAT! WHAT! WHAT!
O-OUT! LEMME OUT! THEY NEVER SAID NOTHIN' 'BOUT THIS!
BUT SOMEHOW... YOU JUST KNOW THE STREETS ARE GONNA BE A LOT SAFER!
LAWDY! GIT 'IM OFFN ME!

MISTER, I DON'T KNOW WHO Y'ARE OR WHY YOU'RE WEARIN T TIN SUIT...
...BUT I SURE AS HELL AM GLAD I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
THAK! THWAK! THAK!
SKASHH!
KSMSKK!
H-HE'S A MONSTER! H-HELP ME! HE'LL EAT ME ALIVE!
THIS ONE'S FOR KATIE
THOK!
BOK!!
THIS ONE'S FOR JAN!
THAK!
HOLD IT...! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
WOK!!
AND THIS ONE, YOU SCUM, IS A SPECIAL ONE ...FROM ME TO YOU!

JEEEZUS! WHAT A MESS! AND JUST LOOK AT YOU, BOY! AIN'T A SPOT ON YOUR BODY THAT'S NOT GOT SOME KINDA PUNCTURE OR HOLE!
HA'HA! SAME MIGHT BE SAID FOR YOU, OLD MAN!
WE'RE JUST A COUPLE A'BLEEDIN' SELVES!
WE SHOWED 'EM NEVER TO MESS WITH WITH THE DAMES!
BUT WE SHOWED EM, BOY! DIDN'T WE?! HA! HA! HA!
OOOGHH!
AH THE FRAILTY OF HUMAN FLESH..! IT NEVER CEASES TO ASTOUND ME!
WELL...GENTLEMEN! I ASSURE YOU, IT'S BEEN A PROFOUND PLEASURE!
THE VILLIANS I LEAVE TO YOUR CHARGE.
..WHILE I WILL ATTEND TO THE WOUNDS OF MY MASTERS, POST HASTE!
JEEZUS! WHO WAS THAT GUY?
I DUNNO! BUT HE SURE WAS UGLY!

LATER...! MUCH LATER! IN FACT, MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER...IN THE SHELTERED ANTISEPTIC DESERT FORTRESS OF ONE RESTIN DANE, THE SOFT INTONEMENT OF AN OLD MAN'S RASPY VOICE, GENTLY BECKONS THE ROBOT MANSERVANT!
TIN MAN!
YOU BELLOWED, SIR?
WHAT AM I DOIN' WRAPPED UP LIKE A NINNYDADDERING MUMMY?
AND WHERE'S THAT HELLION GRANDSON A'MINE?
RIGHT HERE, OLD MAN! TRYING VAINLY TO GET SOME REST AMIDST THIS THUNDERING RACKET!
AIN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH REST, BOY? HOW LONG WE BEEN GLUED TO THESE BEDS, ANYWAY?
A LITTLE MORE THAN THREE DAYS, SIRE!
THREE DAYS? DAMN PINHEAD METAL MAN! NO WONDER I ACHE ALL OVER! 'BOUT TIME WE GOT UP AND ON TO ANOTHER AD-VENTURE, AIN'T IT?
YOU'RE GOING NO-WHERE, GUNFIGHTER! NOT TILL ALL THOSE LITTLE HOLES IN YOUR BODY ARE HEALED UP!
WELL I'LL BE--! KATE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M SORRY, SIR! SHE INSISTED ON COMING ALONG! I COULDN'T VERY WELL LEAVE HER IN THAT HORRIBLY VIOLENT WORLD YOU CALL THE OLD WEST!
AFTER ALL...YOU NEEDED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER YOUR WOUNDS!
JAN! Y-YOU'RE HERE, TOO? A-AND YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
NEVER BETTER, THANKS TO MY TWO NURSES, KATE AND MANNERS!
ALL IN ALL, I'D SAY EVERYTHING ENDED PRETTY WELL!
ENDED, SIR? IF I MAY BE SO BOLD....! THIS LOOKS LIKE ANYTHING BUT THE END!
IT LOOKS LIKE A WHOLE NEW BEGINNING...!

The ROOK™

SO, YA USELESS HEAPA TIN YOU WANNA BE A GUNSLINGLER!?
OH, MASTER BISHOP, I...I...COULDN'T--!
WELL YA COME TO THE RIGHT MAN TO TEACH YA!
LESSON ONE: DON'T NEVER DRAW ON ME!
COUNT TO THREE AN I'LL SHOW YA WHAT I MEAN!
YOU AIN'T GONNA HURT ME, TIN MAN! JUST DO IT!
Y-YES SIR..!
ONE
.TWO--!
BDAM! BLAM!
BAMM!
NOW THAT'S HOW YOU STAY ALIVE IN THE OLD WEST!
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, SIR..! THAT'S HOW YOU STAY ALIVE IN THE OLD WEST!
I CAN'T SAY THAT IT DOES MUCH FOR ME!
GRANDFATHER, ARE YOU BULLYING MY MANSERVANT AGAIN?
BULLYING AIN'T THE WORD, GRANDSON! I BEEN GIVIN' THAT TALKIN' SCRAP FILE A LESSON IN THE FINE ARTA KILLIN'!
FROM WHAT I SEENA THIS MODERN WORLD OF YOURS THERES NO TELLIN' WHEN HE'S GONNA NEED ALL I CAN LEARN HIM!

STORY BILL DuBAY/ART LUIS BERMEJO

HA! YOU'RE SAYING 1977 IS DANGEROUS...AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH IN YOUR GLORIOUS OLD WEST?
WELL, BOY...WHAT WITH YOU GETTIN' ME SHOT UP, BEAT UP AND NEAR KILT TRAVELLIN' BACK AND FORTH IN TIME, I AIN'T HAD MUCH CHANCE T'SEE THIS NEWFANGLED WORLD OF YOURS 'CEPTIN' ON TELEVISION...
...BUT I'LL WAGER MY WORLD OF CONPOKES IS A WHOLE LOT SAFER THAN YOUR WORLD A KOJAK'S, BARETTAS AND ROADRUNNERS!
NO OFFENSE MEANT, T'YOUR ROBOT!
OH, YOU'D SAY THAT, WOULD YOU? WELL LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING GREAT, LAT GRANDFATHER OF MINE
I AIN'T NEVER BEEN SO NEAR DEATH AS ON THE TWO OCCASSIONS I VISITED YOUR "HOSPITABLE" OLD D OF THE 1800'S!
WHICH IS WHY YOU KEEP GOIN' BACK, AIN'T IT, BOY?
HAH! YOU KNOW A GOOD THING WHEN YOU SEEN ONE!
YOU GOT ME THERE, OLD MAN!
HEY! YOU'RE LOADIN' UP THE TIME GIZMO! WE'RE GOING FOR A LITTLE SPIN NOW, IS WE?
NOT WE, GRAMPS! ME!
BUT MASTER DANE..! YOUR WOUNDS AREN'T COMPLETELY HEALED FROM YOUR LAST EXCURSION INTO THE PAST!
1857
MY WOUNDS ARE FINE, MANNERS! I'VE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY! AND THERE'S NO TIME BETTER TO TEND IT, THAN NOW!
I'VE LOCATED A TIME FRAGMENT* ALMOST AN HOUR LONG! SO I SHOULD BE BACK IN TIME FOR DINNER!
*EDITOR'S NOTE RESTIN DANE HAS DISCOVERED THAT TIME, LIKE LIGHT RAYS EXISTS IN FRAGMENTS. IT IS HIS ABILITY TO LOCATE AND OCCUPY THESE FRAGMENTS THAT ALLOW HIM TO TRAVEL INTO THE PAST!

BUT... BUT... SIR! WHAT'LL I TELL THE MISSES BOONE AND McCALL? THEY'LL RETURN FROM THEIR SHOPPING EXPEDITION SOON AND THEY'LL BE WORRIED TO FIND YOU'VE GONE TIME CASTLING AGAIN!
NO ONE'S GOING TO TELL THEM, MANNERS!
UR... ER... YES, SIR!
DANGED NOISY WOMEN...! THEY WON'T GET A WORD OUTTA ME!
GOOD! THEN I'LL SEE YOU ABOUT FOUR!
GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY!
HAVE A SAFE TRIP, SIR!
BE
MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
...CAREFUL!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT GRANDSON'A MINES UP TO NOW?
I BELIEVE IT'S CALLED SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY, SIR!
IF YOU'LL RECALL, MASTER DANE MENTIONED HAVING DISCOVERED AN EXQUISITE MINE SHAFT WHEN LAST VISITING THE PAST!
1884
WITHIN THE SHAFT ARE INCREDIBLE ROBOT GUARDIANS BUILT BY AN ANCIENT RACE FROM THE STARS!
THE MASTER ALSO MENTIONED THAT CAVERN BEING "CHOCK FULL" OF SCIENTIFIC TREASURES!
1875
KNOWING MASTER RESTIN DANE'S INQUISITIVE MIND, I'D SAY IT WAS A MINOR MIRACLE THAT DESPITE HIS WOUNDS AND THE CONSTANT MINISTRATIONS OF THE MISSES BOONE AND McCALL, HE HASN'T SLIPPED OFF TO EXAMINE THOSE WONDERS LONG BEFORE THIS
LOST TO THE LAND OF NOWHEN

THE TIME IS 1875. THE PLACE... THE VERY SAME SPOT HE STOOD MOMENTS AGO... MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER... IN THE HEART OF THE ARIZONA DESERT
CAN'T GET USED TO THE AWESOME SENSATION OF TRAVELLING THROUGH TIME!
IT'S SO EERIE!
WONDER IF I'LL EVER LEARN ALL THERE IS TO DISCOVER ABOUT TIME CASTLING?
STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I'M CAUGHT IN A TIME FRAGMENT WHEN IT ENDS.
WILL I CEASE TO EXIST? WILL THERE BE ANOTHER FRAGMENT TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE FIRST? OR ... WILL SOMETHING FAR MORE FRIGHTENING OCCUR?
ALL I KNOW IS... I DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT! NOT JUST YET, ANYWAY!
I DO KNOW THAT I'D BETTER BE OUT OF THIS TIME FRAGMENT WITHIN FIFTY-SEVEN MINUTES! MY PINOMETER INDICATES THAT'S WHEN IT ENDS!
I'VE INSTALLED A SOLAR CELL WITHIN MY BELT BUCKLE WHICH WILL GLOW RED WHEN MY TIME IS NEARLY UP! THAT'LL BE MY TWO MINUTE SIGNAL TO GET MY DERRIERE BACK HOME... AND QUICK!
HMMM! THIS IS ANOTHER THING I CAN'T GET OVER... MY DUMB LUCK IN STUMBLING ON THIS OLD MINE SHAFT, WHERE AN ALIEN RACE KEPT ITS STOREHOUSE OF SCIENTIFIC WONDERS!
CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER!
STRANGE HOW I "ACCIDENTALLY" SELECTED THIS SPOT TO BUILD MY ROCK CASTLE... MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW!
WHO ENTERS THE LAIR OF MY MASTER?
SENTINEL! IT'S ME!
MASTER! MASTER ROOK! YOU'VE RETURNED! YOU'RE SAFE!
THAT I AM, SENTINEL! I CAME BACK TO EXAMINE THE SCIENCES OF YOUR PREVIOUS MASTERS!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO OPEN THE GALLERY DOOR FOR ME?
I CANNOT, MASTER ROOK! THE KEY TO THE DOOR LIES WITHIN YOU ALONE!
REMEMBER WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD BEEN BLINDED? A SPECIAL POWER RAY WAS EMBEDDED INTO YOUR BRAIN BY WAY OF YOUR OPTIC NERVES.
THAT RAY ALONE OPENS THIS DOOR, MASTER
YOU MUST THINK!
CONCENTRATE!
WILL THE DOOR TO OPEN!
SSSSSSST!
THE POWER IS YOURS ALONE TO COMMAND!
WHEW!! THAT'S HARD WORK PAL!
SEEMS IT WOULD'VE BEEN A WHOLE LOT EASIER ON THE FLESH TO HAVE GIVEN ME A KEY!
THE CONTENTS OF THE GALLERY ARE WELL WORTH YOUR EFFORTS, MASTER ROOK!
OH LORD, PALLAS! NO MATTER HOW OFTEN I'M HERE, THE WONDERS OF YOUR CREATORS NEVER CEASE TO ASTOUND ME!
I HAVEN' MUCH TIME, AND THERE S SO MUCH TO SEE ..SO MUCH TO KNOW!
THIS MACHINE, FOR EXAMPLE..! WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE--?
NO, MASTER! DON'T TOUCH THAT--!
BOOOM!

1875
TIN MAN!
SAY YER PRAYERS, YARMIT.
...AN' DRAW!
BDAM! BLAM! POW! DOW! PTOW! CHING!
MASTER BISHOP, I TRULY WISH YOU'D RESTRAIN YOURSELF!
JUST GIVIN' YOU ANOTHER FREE POINTER IN THE FINE ARTA GUNMANSHIP, USELESS.
LESSON TWO: ALWAYS WATCH YER BACKSIDE!
I WISH I COULD SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, MASTER BISHOP.
...UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS A MORE PRESSING MATTER IN NEED OF OUR ENERGIES.
CLIK!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TIN MAN? HAVIN' PROBLEMS WITH TH' HIRED HELP HERE?
IT'S NOT THEM, SIR IT'S MASTER DANE!
HE'S BEEN GONE LONGER THAN IS SAFE!
I'M WORRIED THAT SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED!
1875

WHAT COULD HAPPEN? I'VE SEEN THAT BOY IN ACTION. HE'S TOUGH, RESOURCEFUL. HE'S GOT THE GUTS AN' BRAINS OF A DANE!
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY 'BOUT HIM NONE!
1875
BUT SIR... HE CAPTURED A TIME FRAGMENT THAT WAS ONLY AN HOUR LONG.
THAT HOUR HAS JUST ABOUT RUN OUT!
AND IF MASTER DANE IS TRAPPED BE-TWEEN TIMES...
...HE COULD BECOME A PRISONER OF.. NOWHEN!
YOU THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE, TIN MAN?
POSSIBLE.. AND AT THIS POINT MORE THAN PROBABLE, SIR!
IT'S UNLIKE MASTER DANE TO TIME HIS RETURN WITHOUT SOME MARGIN FOR SAFETY!
WELL THEN DON'T STAND THERE JAWIN', USELESS! PUSH SOME BUTTONS..
..GET THAT GRAND-SON A'MINE BACK HERE!
I...I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, SIR! I COULD RETURN THE MASTER'S TIME CASTLE, BUT IF HE IS NOT WITHIN IT, WE WOULD SURELY STRAND HIM IN THE PAST!
Y' PILE OF SCRAP! THAT'S BLOOD KIN OUT THERE! WHAT CAN WE DO?
THERE'S ONLY ONE SOLUTION, MASTER BISHOP!
I MUST USE THE RESERVE TIME CASTLE AND GO AFTER HIM!
RESERVE CASTLE?
YOU MEAN YOU GOT ME ALL RILED UP KNOWIN' FULL WELL THIS EXTRA TIME MACHINE WAS HERE ALL ALONG?
BLITHERING, NINNYDADDERING, RUST-BRAINED SCRAP HEAP! I OUGHTTA--!
PLEASE, SIR! THE LITTLE ONES HAVE SENSITIVE EARS!
WELL WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, USELESS?
THAT DAMN FOOL BOY CAN'T GO NOWHERE WITHOUT US RESCUING HIM!
NOT US, SIR! ME!
I MUST INSIST THAT I--!
CLIK!
UH...THAT IS..! BY ALL MEANS, SIR..! LET US NOT DELAY!

P-PALLAS... PALLAS...!
OH MY GOD! W-WHAT HAVE I DONE?
PALLAS DESTROYED!
T-THE BLAST...! HE MUST HAVE SAVED ME..! STEPPED BETWEEN ME ...AND THE EXPLOSION!
I... I DESTROYED HIM IN MY FOOL-HEARTY IGNORANCE!
UGHH! HEAD SPINNING.. H-HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?
GOOD GOD! NOOO! T-THE BELT! MY WARNING DEVICE IS GLOWING RED!!
M-MUST GET OUT OF HERE..
..GET TO THE TIME CASTLE...
..B-BEFORE ...IT'S TOO LATE...!
OH GOD!

LOOK! IT'S MASTER DANE! HE, HE'S--!
OH LORD, TIN MAN! HE'S COMIN' APART!
HE...
HE'S...
...DISINTEGRATING!!!
NOOOO!
NO! NO! NO! NO!
NOOOOOOOOO!

H-HE'S GONE, USELESS! M-MY GRANDSON'S DEAD!
HIS TIME FRAGMENT CAME TO AN END, SIR...
...AND...AND... THE MASTER SIMPLY CEASED...TO BE!
OH, GOD, TIN MAN! IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING!
TO...TO SEE HIM COME APART LIKE THAT--! TO. TO DISSOLVE INTO DUST...! IT...! OH LORD! IT WAS HORRIBLE!
W-WHAT DO WE DO NOW, MASTER BISHOP?
DO.?
WHAT IS THERE LEFT TO DO, TIN MAN?
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE HIS WORK IS NOT IN VAIN!
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THE NAME RESTIN DANE... BOOK.. LEGEND!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU FIDDLE-HEADED FILCHER! I WANT TO BUY THAT ABANDONED MINE OUTSIDE TOWN... AND ALL THE LAND AROUND IT FOR AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!
BUT SIR...! THAT'S WASTELAND! THE MINE IS PLAYED OUT AND THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT ROCKS AND GILA MONSTERS OUT--!
AN' I WANT IT NOW!
CLICK!

YOU DO HAVE A WAY OF BEING MOST PERSUASIVE!
THAT'LL BE ONE DOLLAR AN ACRE, SIR!
FALLAS, MY FRIEND I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE... BUT IF YOUR CREATORS MADE YOU AS LOYAL AS MINE BUILT ME...
THEN I'VE A FEELING YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO SAVE MY MASTER DANE!
MAYBE... JUST MAYBE I CAN PIECE ENOUGH OF YOU TOGETHER SO YOUR SACRIFICE WON'T HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!
RESTIN DANE WOULD HAVE WANTED THAT!
YOU HEARD ME NINNYHAMMER! A MAIL-BOX! AND I WANT THIS ETCHED INTO ITS SIDE!
IF IT AIN'T PERFECT, THAT MAILBOX IS GONNA BE-COME AN INTEGRAL PART O' YOUR ANATOMY...! AN' I PROMISE YA... YOU'LL BE WALKIN' FUNNY FER A MONTH!
THAT'S THE AD, GUILL PUSHER! ALL OF IT! YOU MAKE SURE YOU PRINT IT NICE AND BIG! I WANT ALL THE WORLD TO SEE!
THE GAZETTE

YOU FINISHED, TIN MAN?
I'M FINISHED, OLD MAN!
THEN WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN DO TO CARRY ON THE NAME OF MY GREAT GREAT GRANDSON!
LET'S GO HOME BEFORE OUR TIME RUNS OUT!
THE BOOK
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO WAIT!
RESTIN DANE'S JOB IS DONE...
...BUT OURS IS JUST BEGINNIN'!
IT'S UP TO YOU AN' ME NOW, TIN MAN...
TO FILL THE SHOES OF A MIGHTY BIG MAN.
...THE BOOK!

MMMMMMMMMMMM
THE IMPOSSIBLE MOVIE - CHEAP!
OH, LOOK, KATE! WE'RE ALMOST HOME! THERE'S ROOK CASTLE, NOW! ISN'T IT GLORIOUS?
I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THE SIGHT OF IT, JAN! IT SURELY IS A WONDER!
IS THIS FUTURE WORLD I'LL NEVER GET USED TO, KATE!
LIVING HERE HAS BEEN LIKE LIVING IN A DREAM!
I DON'T EVER WANT TO RETURN TO THE 1850's
YOU JUST GET THAT MAN OF YOURS TO THE ALTAR, JAN, AND MR RESTIN DANE WILL MAKE SURE YOU NEVER LEAVE HIS SIDE!
KATE! THAT OVER THERE! THAT... THAT OLD MINE SHAFT! WE PASSED IT ON THE WAY INTO TOWN! BUT NOW IT LOOKS DIFFERENT SOMEHOW!

YOU'RE RIGHT, JAN! IT IS DIFFERENT.
THERE'S A MAILBOX THERE NOW!
HOW WHO WOULD PUT A MAILBOX BY THE ENTRANCE TO AN OLD MINE?
WHO ELSE BUT THA CRAZY MAN YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH... RESTIN DANE!
BUT...IT LOOKS SO OLD..SO RUSTY, KATE! LIKE ...LIKE IT'S BEEN HERE FOR MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS!
AND LOOK AT THIS! THERE'S A LETTER INSIDE!
A LETTER THAT'S BEEN SITTING HERE SINCE ...1857...!
AND IT'S ADDRESSED TO...
...THE ROOK!

Continued from inside front cover

THE MAKING OF A COMIC BOOK HERO!

There was silence for a moment. Then simultaneously their eyes began to sparkle. They didn't have to communicate. Each knew what the other was thinking.

Lewis was excited. "Why not, man? You'll pacify Warren, but be able to do the kind of character you want. Open the story with a trilogy set in the old west. The Alamo. He wants another Davy Crockett, give it to him."

Dube was fired now. The character seemed to take on shape and substance, emitted from their collective minds. "He can be a man of today, searching for his roots."

"Alex Haley'd love it!"

"An inventor! Not only with the world's sole working time machine, but a rocket ship and a couple dozen robots thrown in for good measure."

"You really think America is going to open its heart for starships and robots?"

"You're right. We're getting carried away. No starships. But one robot, anyway. And maybe two utility robs to keep it company."

"I even have a name for him," bleated Lewis. "We'll call him Rook!"

"Rook? That's the name of that medieval character you came up with but never quite knew where to sell."

"It's a nifty name. Besides, we can give him a horse named King, and a boyfriend who's a queen, and so on down the chessboard."

"Tell y'what," Dube quieted him diplomatically. "I'll give it to J.W. and let you know what he thinks."

And so The Rook was born. Not, however, without growing pains that lasted several months longer. Jim Stenstrum, third partner in the growing Cartoon Factory, assisted with the burgeoning first storyline. After dozens of rough sketches were prepared and roundfiled, a tentative costume was settled upon; more the brainchild of Stenstrum than anyone else.

A final script was prepared. The best possible artist chosen. And sketches of all the principals and props were simultaneously sent to illustrator Luis Bermejo, and to Peretz, who was to build life-size mockups of working Rook toys.

More months passed. Finally, Bermejo's art on the first finished story arrived, followed by Peretz' toy designs. Both were magnificent.

But, Dube noticed, Monners, The Rook's robot was conspicuously absent from Peretz' full-scale plastic mockups. In fact, the smaller robots, Nuts and Bolts were missing, too. "How come?" pried the one-time Warren editor.

"I stuck with the original western theme," admitted Peretz. "Robots and science fiction are a dead commodity in the toy industry. We'd never be able to sell them."

What the heck, figured Warren and Dube. Maybe the Californian knew something they didn't.

The first Rook story was published in Warren's EERIE magazine in December, 1976. The praise was immediate and thunderous. Never had a mere comic magazine hero received more fan mail or a more enthusiastic response.

While over at the New York Toy Center, gathering place for large and small plaything manufacturers alike, The Rook generated mild interest. "It's not Barbie and Ken," shrugged one entrepreneur. "But maybe we can sell a few dozen time machines."

By the time The Rook was a year old, however, the toy industry was still dragging its heels, debating whether or not this westernized rogue had any future in plastic.

Suddenly it was May 1977. And overnight the long-debated, new craze was upon us. While almost nobody was looking, the motion picture Star Wars stormed the American consciousness. Instantly, robots and the future were here.

And the toy industry, God bless their predictable souls, went the way of trendish American thinking: Cowboys and Indians were out, science fiction and robots were now!

Boy, was Howard Peretz' face red!

And The Rook? As planned, his adventures continued in the pages of EERIE. New readers, perhaps influenced by that growing epidemic known as Star Wars fever, seemed to sense that both Restin Dane and Luke Skywalker were born of the same mold.

As for the future, well, while yet fully in the grip of science fiction fever, the world patiently awaits Star Wars II. Will there also be a Rook II, an entire magazine devoted to the adventures of the time travelling hero who has stormed the comic world? Probably not! But the first issue of The Rook Magazine is in preparation even now! And besides a thirty-page adventure featuring Warren's overnight sensation, exciting new heroes have been created at the Cartoon Factory by the same people who brought you Restin Dane and friends. It's not western or science fiction, but pure comic fun.

Yet, if westerns ever do return to vogue, well, we'll be ready for that, too!

The Goblin

The Tin Man

WARREN PUBLISHING PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE PUBLISHING RIGHTS
TO THE
SPECTACULAR MOTION PICTURE

WARREN
Special Edition
The Lord of the Rings
J.R.R. Tolkien's Classic fantasy Epic
with 120 Full Color Illustrations from the Exciting Motion Picture!
COLLECTOR'S EDITION

ON NEWSSTANDS MARCH 31 OR USE THE MAIL-ORDER COUPON!

By exclusive arrangement with the producers of this masterpiece movie, Warren Publishing has created a spectacular 8¼" x 11" all-color magazine devoted to the screen version of "The Lord of the Rings." Tolkien's incredible world of Hobbits, Wizards & Orcs, plus the wonders and terrors of Middle Earth as they appear on the screen are magnificently illustrated and described in this very special all-color Warren Magazine along with articles on the film-makers who created this great cinema fantasy. All in full color! Order your Collector's Edition NOW!

WARREN PUBLISHING CO., 145 E. 32nd St., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

Please rush me _____ copies of THE LORD OF THE RINGS Magazine at $2.50 each, plus 50c postage & handling. Total enclosed _____.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

A WARREN MAGAZINE
EERIE
EERIE #82
$1.25
PDC
INTRODUCING A LEGEND!
THE MOST EXCITING NEW HERO IN COMICS!
THE MASTER OF THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE!
The ROOK

ALL-NEW WARREN EXCITEMENT!

The ROOK

APPEARING IN EERIE MAGAZINE!

ON SALE NOW

WARREN MAGAZINE
EERIE #83
$1.25 56320-6
THE ROOK IN "DAY BEFORE TOMORROW!"
EERIE
PDC
MAY 1977
THE VILLAINOUS GAT HAWKINS PLOTS TO STEAL THE TIME CASTLER...
...AND ONLY THE ROOK CAN STOP HIM!

WARREN MAGAZINE

EERIE

PDC

AUG 1977

EERIE
#85
$1.25 56320-6

BISHOP DANE AND MANNERS FIGHT TIME TO SAVE THE ROOK!